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Middle East & North Africa

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ISLAMBAD 'SECRET AGREEMENT' TO AID AFGHAN REBELS REPORTED

LD011314 Hamburg DPA in German 1125 GMT 1 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Islamabad--A number of Islamic states are said to have committed themselves in a "secret agreement" reached during the Islamabad foreign ministers conference to support the Afghanistan rebels with money and arms against the pro-Soviet regime in Kabul. DPA learned today from informed circles that these states agreed with the Pakistani Government that, among other things, the two fishing ports of Gwadar and Pasny along Pakistan's Baluchistan coast would be extended. It is also planned to extend existing airports in Baluchistan.

According to Islamic diplomatic circles, harbors and airports are to be used as collecting points for aid consignments not only for Afghanistan refugees but also for Afghanistan freedom fighters. It has been learned that five Arab oil states have formed a committee in Islamabad which, within the Islamic group, will assume responsibility for help to the mojahedin. The lion's share of help for the rebels is expected from these five states, which include Saudi Arabia and Oman.

The discussion in the Islamic foreign ministers' conference, from which the public was excluded, resulted in a promise of help for the mojahedin which was demanded primarily from the conservative Arab side. The draft resolution calls on member states of the Islamic Conference to give to the "fighting Islamic people"--in diplomatic language this means the rebels--material and moral support. The final resolution however contained only an appeal for solidarity with the Islamic states. Asked to explain the withdrawal of these far-reaching demands, Secretary General of the Islamic Conference Habib Chatti said: "Such help for the mojahedin is not written into resolutions. One does not talk about it--one acts." Chatti refused to give further details to the press in Islamabad.

The Pakistani Government, which after the Soviet invasion in Afghanistan practically lives with a superpower on its front step, does not wish to create the impression that Pakistan will become an assembly ground, training camp and arsenal for the Afghan rebels. However, it admitted that several rebel organizations had their headquarters in Peshawar, and that six rebel organizations had announced, in the presence of high government officials at the start of the foreign ministers conference in Islamabad, the formation of an "Islamic alliance for the liberation of Afghanistan."

A Kuwaiti journalist, who seemed especially well informed about the nonpublic debates, discussions and agreements in Islamabad, told a British colleague at the end of the conference: "I have yet to see an iceberg, but you keep writing about the tip of an iceberg. The five resolutions adopted here are only the tip of an iceberg." As far as the disputes and rows at the conference are concerned, and also the secret agreements reached and plans prepared, these will be learned about later--if ever.

HABIB CHATTI APPROVES OF U.S. ARMS AID TO PAKISTAN

BK030924 Dacca Domestic Service in English 0835 GMT 3 Feb 80 BK

[Text] The secretary general of the Organization of Islamic Conference, Dr Habib Chatti, has underscored the need for increased foreign investment in Bangladesh to help utilize its vast natural resources for rapid economic growth. Speaking at a news conference in Dacca this morning prior to his departure for the Philippines, Dr Chatti said Bangladesh is rich in natural resources and skilled manpower.

The secretary general said he had very useful discussions with the Bangladesh leaders toward strengthening the solidarity between the Islamic countries. Dr Chatti hoped that investment from the Islamic countries will be a great help to develop Bangladesh's economy. He said though the cooperation would be bilateral with different Islamic countries, the organization of the Islamic solidarity would always be there to coordinate such cooperation between member states.

The secretary general said the Muslim countries are interested in having manpower from Bangladesh.

Replying to a question, Dr Chatti said every Islamic country has a right to defend its independence and sovereignty and to acquire arms for that purpose. He described the proposed U.S. arms assistance to Pakistan as fully justified.

Replying to another question on the American hostage issue, the secretary general said some cannot approve of keeping of the U.S. diplomats as hostages in Iran, but Iranians have reasons behind this.

The foreign minister, Professor Mohmmad Shamsul Haq, was present at the news conference.

Jerusalem Committee to Meet

LD011025 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 31 Jan 80 p 1 LD

[Yunis Muhammad Ishaq report]

[Excerpt] Jidda, ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Bureau--ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that the Jerusalem committee set up as a result of the Islamic Conference will begin its next meeting in the city of Marrakesh in Morocco on 13 February under the chairmanship of King Hassan II of Morocco.

Following the suspension of Egypt's membership, the committee now comprises the foreign ministers of 14 states: the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Guinea, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Iran, Libya, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Pakistan, the PLO, Senegal, Sudan and Syria. During its meeting the committee will discuss the nature of the present phase of the question of the Judaization of holy Jerusalem, the Palestinian cause and the occupied Arab territories--especially following the normalization of Egyptian-Israeli relations--and the effect of the normalization on the Islamic cause, the Arab situation and the resolutions adopted by the Islamic foreign ministers at their emergency conference on the question of Jerusalem and Palestine.

Moroccan Minister of State in Charge of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation M'hamed Boucetta, in a statement to ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT about the meeting, said that at its last meeting under the chairmanship of King Hassan II the committee took several initiatives to coordinate on a wide scale the member states' action in explaining to the Vatican, the United States and the European countries the dangers posed by Israel's occupation of and behavior in the holy city of Jerusalem and the need to put an end to Israel's aggressive actions. He added that at its next meeting the committee will discuss the progress achieved so far in the political and information fields and the efforts that have been made to rescue the holy city of Jerusalem and the Palestinian cause, which is being subjected to liquidation attempts by Zionism and imperialism.

The committee meeting will result in a meeting of the board of directors of the Jerusalem Fund, which is comprised of Palestine (the PLO) as a permanent member, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Pakistan, Guinea and Morocco. The fund will meet in Jidda during the first week in February to consider the programs and plans to support the Palestinian people in occupied Jerusalem, to adopt the necessary recommendations on education and health plans preparatory to implementing them and to bolster the awqaf and mosques.

ISLAMIC COUNCIL OF EUROPE URGES PAKISTAN-GULF COOPERATION

BK031114 Hong Kong AFP in English 1702 GMT 2 Feb 80 BK

[Text] Karachi, 2 Feb (AFP)--Mr. Salem Azzam, secretary-general of the London-based Islamic Council of Europe, tonight strongly opposed the establishment of any foreign military bases in this region and instead proposed that Pakistan and the Gulf states should start mutual cooperation in the defence field.

Talking to newsmen here he said such military cooperation in the Persian Gulf region could be the first step towards the ultimate goal of military unity of the Islamic world. Such cooperation, he added, was essential for the security of the Moslem countries against future aggression.

If Pakistan and the Gulf states started cooperating in the defence field, they could fill the so-called power vacuum in this strategically sensitive region, Mr. Azzam said. He urged the oil-rich Moslem states to help Pakistan financially to enable her to withstand possible Soviet pressures in the near future.

'ARAFAT: OILFIELDS BELONG TO ARABS, NOT CARTER

NC020728 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 0530 GMT 2 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Under the patronage of brother leader Abu 'Ammar, a celebration was held last night on the 40-day anniversary of the deaths of martyrs Abu Safwat and Samir Tuqan, who were killed by Zionist intelligence agents in Cyprus. The celebration, which was held at Beirut Arab University, was attended by leaders of the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese national movement, the families of the two martyrs and a large crowd composed of Lebanese and Palestinian people.

Brother leader Abu 'Ammar delivered a speech in which he affirmed that the Arab area was not Carter's property. He said: Let Carter understand that the Palestinian and Lebanese fighters will not allow him to strut about in the area as he likes. The oilfields belong to the Arabs, not him.

Brother Abu 'Ammar also affirmed that the army's entry into the south must be part of a plan according to which it must also enter the occupied border strip. Brother Abu 'Ammar warned against a battle for which Israel is preparing on the southern border. He said Weizman had confirmed the [Israeli] concentrations despite denials by some newspapers and officials.

Brother Abu 'Ammar said: The Palestinian and Lebanese fighters are prepared to confront the new aggression and the Israeli army will fail as it failed before. They want to crush the Palestinian and the Lebanese national rifles to peddle the self-rule conspiracy, which will, however, be thwarted by the cohesion of the resistance and the national movement.

Concerning the attempts to settle the Palestinians in Lebanon, brother Abu 'Ammar said: Those who want to settle the Palestinians are those who are fighting the Palestinian revolution, who are working to implement the Camp David agreements and who want Carter to strut about in the area.

VOP DENIES 'ARAFAT REMARKS TO TIME MAGAZINE ON USSR

NC050840 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 0645 GMT 5 Feb 80 NC

[Text] A responsible information source in the Palestinian revolution yesterday stated the following: What the U.S. TIME magazine has published in this week's edition, quoting brother Abu 'Ammar, regarding the Soviet Union is unfounded, distorted and totally false.

INA REPORTS 'ARAFAT STATEMENT TO BAGHDAD ATH-THAWRAH

JN041003 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0815 GMT 4 Feb 80 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 4 February--PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has said that he expects the enemy to escalate military action in southern Lebanon in the coming days.

In a statement published in the newspaper ATH-THAWRAH today, 'Arafat said that the uproar created by the enemy in the south, the massing of troops and the beating of war drums is not normal. He said that the Palestinian revolution has put its forces on maximum alert and that the fighters in the frontline trenches are ready to repulse any aggression.

'Arafat added that the United States has given the green light to the Zionist move. It knows about all the enemy's steps because he consults with it during and after every military operation. 'Arafat affirmed that a war decision is not only a military decision but also a political and international decision. This means that "the United States wants something." He expressed hope that under these circumstances the Arabs would shoulder their responsibilities without weakness or hesitation.

Mr 'Arafat said that the Palestinian resistance movement is facing two challenges: the Zionist challenge, which is trying to wage a war of annihilation against the Palestinian people, and the challenge of As-Sadat. He described the stage of normalization of relations between Egypt and the Zionist entity as dangerous not only to the Palestinian people, but to the Egyptian people and the Arab nation as well. He affirmed that self-rule is no more than a new slavery for the Palestinian people. Its purpose is to give further pretexts for recognition of the Zionist occupation of Palestine.

Mr 'Arafat strongly denied reports about the existence of contacts between the PLO and the Egyptian regime. He said: As-Sadat is always trying to make his U.S. masters believe he can influence the Palestinian people through the self-rule conspiracy and the normalization of relations. He described the Palestinian people's steadfastness in the occupied land and their rejection of the conspiracy as "a timebomb that exploded in Carter's, Begin's and As-Sadat's faces."

Mr 'Arafat described relations between the Lebanese Government and the Palestinian resistance as good. However, there are attempts to distort remarks he made, in which he criticized the Lebanese foreign minister's behavior in the United Nations and the Tunis summit and a statement he made to Lebanese television. 'Arafat said that he respects Lebanese President Ilyas Sarkis, adding: "I am Lebanon's guest and he is the president of the host country."

'Arafat referred to a redeployment of the Arab Deterrent Forces, whereby they withdrew from their positions in the south and Beirut. He expressed hope that the efforts of several parties, in cooperation with the Arab Followup Committee and the Lebanese state, will bring about security and normalcy in fraternal Lebanon.

Referring to his meeting with President Saddam Husayn yesterday, the PLO Executive Committee chairman said that during this meeting, they discussed the Arab situation, the Islamabad conference and the Zionist threats and large troop concentrations which are gathering in the border strip in northern Palestine. He added that the discussions also dealt with militant relations between Iraq and the Palestinian revolution on the military, political and financial levels. He described the meeting as important and stressed that the Arab nation is facing one of the major challenges of the age while passing through a true stage of labor. Therefore, the discussion also dealt with the various developments that are taking place and that are expected to take place in the wake of the Zionist threats, the Camp David accords, the normalization of relations with the Zionist entity and the U.S. plans and threats which accompanied this normalization as well as the moves of the U.S. 5th, 6th and 7th fleets.

'Arafat said that the Iraqi party, government and people support the Palestinian revolution.

'ARAFAT ON S. LEBANON, ARAB DETERRENT FORCES

NC050748 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 0645 GMT 5 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Brother Comander in Chief Abu 'Ammar has said that our enemies and the enemies of our nation are preparing a decisive battle against us which could be their final attempt to destroy the Palestinian rifle.

In a candid meeting with the Palestinian people, which took place in the PLO office in Baghdad last Saturday, Abu 'Ammar said: Today we are facing two choices: Either we surrender and let the Camp David plot and the autonomy plan take effect--something which means placing the Arab area in the American sphere of influence, and this is impossible--or we fight, and there is no alternative for us but to fight to achieve victory or the honor of martyrdom.

During the meeting, which was attended by officials responsible for popular organizations and associations and the masses of the Palestinian people in Iraq, the commander in chief said: It is true that fighting is difficult, but the will to fight is stronger than anything else.

After speaking about the lessons of the 8-day battle and the failure of the enemy to destroy us in southern Lebanon, the commander in chief reaffirmed that the war in Lebanon is not sectarian; it is an American design. Anyone who goes back to the memoires of U.S. intelligence officer Roger Morris on his talks with Kissinger will understand the American role in the events which took place in the past and are still continuing in Lebanon.

Regarding the decision to concentrate the Arab Deterrent Forces, the commander in chief said that Syria is entitled to do this as a precaution against an Israeli attack. They have the right to gather their forces. But, at the same time, this places new responsibilities on the shoulders of the revolution.

'ARAFAT RETURNS TO LEBANON FROM SAUDI ARABIA

NC041810 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1615 GMT 4 Feb 80 NC

[Text] This afternoon, brother leader Abu 'Ammar arrived in Beirut from Damascus following a brief visit to Saudi Arabia, during which he met with Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal in the presence of the PLO representative in Saudi Arabia.

At the meeting, which lasted 2 hours, they discussed all the topical questions at various levels, including the situation in southern Lebanon, Israel's military escalation and its threats, the situation within the occupied territories, and the Arab and international situations.

QADDUMI INTERVIEWED ON AFGHANISTAN, LEBANON, SELF-RULE

LD041329 London AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 4 Feb 80 pp 12, 13 LD

[Interview granted by PLO Political Department chief Faruq Qaddumi to Layla Fayid--date, place not given]

[Excerpts] [Question] Developments in Afghanistan have created a division among the Arab countries. Do you believe that this division will affect the Palestinian problem in any way?

[Answer] I hope that the Afghanistan events will not lead to division or have any negative effects on the Palestinian problem. We have spoken about the Afghanistan events in the spirit of Arab and Islamic solidarity and warned the Arab and Islamic countries against falling for U.S. imperialism's intrigues. The British and U.S. foreign and defense secretaries have been pursuing activites in the Arab countries and elsewhere aimed at involving the Islamic countries in a new phase of establishing bases and military alliances. Brzezinski has been calling on the Islamic and Arab countries to set up security alliances in the area hitched to imperialist policy. This, in fact, echoes the call for expanding the Zionist-As-Sadat-U.S. alliance.

The United States has exploited Afghanistan events in order to create a new conflict between the Islamic countries and the Soviet Union, and to depict communism as these countries' enemy. We have therefore drawn attention to the danger of such a trend so that the Arabs and Muslims will be aware of the dangers of U.S. policy in the area and its aim of draggging them into new military alliances after the collapse of CENTO.

We will exert every effort with the sister-Arab states and the Islamic states to abort these new imperialist plans.

[Question] Brzezinski and Vance's appeals for the establishment of an alliance contained an allusion to the possibility of solving the Palestinian problem. What is your attitude to this?

[Answer] Their only aim behind this is to drag the Arabs into a new stage of the Camp David conspiracy. The Camp David conspiracy, in its early stages, failed to involve the Arabs in the negotiations. There is now an appeal for Islamic alliances to encompass the Palestinian problem, claiming that a solution to the problem can be reached through these alliances. In fact, their action is aimed at drawing the Arab and Islamic countries into implementing a new conspiracy. Thus the conspiracy has been uncovered and rejected, and those trying to involve themselves in it, such as the Sultanate of Oman, have been exposed.

[Question] The Steadfastness and Confrontation Front recently adopted a hardline attitude to the Islamic Conference and the Afghanistan events. What, in your opinion, were the justifications for such a stand?

[Answer] The Steadfastness and Confrontation Front and the Arab confrontation forces have become aware of the dangers of the recent events and developments and therefore adopted an appropriate attitude. They rejected the suspect U.S. appeals and refused to adopt a hostile stand against the friendly Soviet Union.

The Steadfastness and Confrontation Front and the Arab confrontation forces realized the meaning of the military and security alliance plans, whose aim is to link the Middle East and Africa and place them under the control of world imperialism in order to protect U.S. interests.

[Question] Abu al-Lutf, let us move on to the Lebanese problem. In a recent television interview the Lebanese foreign minister confirmed the possibility of the Lebanese Army entering the south in the near future. Has the resistance reached some sort of an agreement with the Lebanese side?

[Answer] We are no obstacle to the Lebanese Army entry into all Lebanese territories. This has become a purely Lebanese matter, and it is up to the Lebanese parties to agree on the method of a "balanced" entry of the Lebanese Army into all the areas. We made our position clear during the talks at the Followup Committee as well as in the press. It is undoubtedly necessary for the Tunis summit resolution to be "faithfully" implemented so that matters will not be misinterpreted.

[Question] Do we understand from this that you confirm the possibility of the Lebanese Army entering [the south] shortly?

[Answer] That is a purely Lebanese matter.

[Question] The Israeli Labor Party, whose leader is likely to replace Begin, has a different plan for self-rule. Do you believe that this is a new stand by the party?

[Answer] We have clearly and frankly said that we reject and fight against the self-rule plan. Our people have been heroic in rejecting and resisting this plan by every means. There is nobody in the occupied territories who adopts a stand contrary to that of the people, and Israel will not find anybody who will collaborate with it in implementing self-rule.

We also believe that the Labor Party, in essence, is no different from the Likud with regard to self-rule, although there may be some differences in detail as to how self-rule should be implemented.

The Labor Party probably believes in the need to withdraw partially from the West Bank and the rest of the occupied Palestinian territories, while the Likud believes in maintaining the occupation of all the Palestinian territories.

[Question] King Husayn recently visited several Arab countries. Do you believe that the King carried a special plan for the Palestinian problem?

[Answer] I do not think that King Husayn carried a new plan during his activities in the area. But, according to our information, Jordan is afraid that, as a result of recent developments in the Middle East, the Arabs and Muslims will be divided into left and right in their attitude to such developments. [paragraph continues]

There is no doubt that we are eager to maintain Arab and Islamic solidarity and not to fall into the trap of imperialist plans. We also believe that this time is quite unsuitable for any new plans for the Middle East crisis, since such plans could be misinterpreted or misconstrued.

[Question] The direct and indirect threats to Syria seem to signal the brandishing of the big stick. Do you expect a blitzkrieg against Syria?

[Answer] There have been many Israeli statements against Syria. This is an indication that Israel, with U.S. encouragement, is trying to bring pressure to bear on Syria in order to influence its steadfast stand. Menahem Begin has stated that Syria is preparing for a strike against Israel and that the Soviet Union is supplying sophisticated weapons to Syria, meaning that Syria intends to carry out a certain action against Israel. This claim gives Israel the excuse to strike at Syria or to escalate its aggression in southern Lebanon, in order to harass both the Palestinian resistance and sisterly Syria.

Denounces U.S. Mideast Policy

NC050830 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 0645 GMT 5 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Head of the PLO Political Department Abu al-Lutf [faruq Qaddumi] has made a special statement to the Palestinian news agency, WAFA, denouncing U.S. activity in the area which, he said, aims at returning the area to the era of the cold war of the fifties.

Brother Abu al-Lutf said that the United States has recently begun undertaking suspect activity in a number of Middle Eastern countries with a view to establishing military alliances and transforming these states into a security belt to protect U.S. interests, on the pretext of an existing communist threat to the area. He said: If such calls get any response from some countries, the Middle East area will be led back into the era of the cold war of the fifties.

Brother Abu al-Lutf pointed out that the Egyptian regime leads in making these suspect calls for establishing alliances and justifies them. He then referred to the tour of the U.S. President's national security adviser, Brzezinski, and his visit to Pakistan. He said the real threat to the Middle East is the danger of U.S. interference in the affairs of this area. The continued U.S. exploitation of the Arab resources and the continued Israeli aggression, which not only threatens security and peace in the area, but world-wide. This interference is also manifested in the United States' threats against the revolutionary regime in Iran as well as by the establishment of military land and naval bases in the area and the concentration of U.S. forces in the Indian Ocean.

Concluding his statement, brother Abu al-Lutf said: The United States considers this area as its sphere of influence. Therefore, it insists on imposing custodianship and tries to return to the era of military alliances. This helps achieve Israel's aim of continuing the occupation of Arab and Palestinian territory and Jerusalem, which the Muslims are eager to liberate. It also consolidates the Israeli aggressive existence and its ability to carry out further aggressions in the Arab area. There is no doubt that the threats made by Menahem Begin and other Israeli officials against Syria, and the escalation of the aggression against southern Lebanon, are a clear indication of this aggressive policy.

ARAB DIPLOMATS IN BULGARIA CONDEMN AS-SADAT

AU300946 Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Bulgarian 27 Jan 80 p 2 AU

[Declaration of the chiefs of the Arab diplomatic missions and of the PLO representative in the People's Republic of Bulgaria]

[Text] The chiefs of the Arab diplomatic missions and the PLO representative in Bulgaria have issued a declaration condemning Anwar as-Sadat's betrayal of the interests of his people and nation.

The declaration emphasizes that the course of capitulation of As-Sadat's regime aims "at dealing a blow to the Arab national liberation movement and the national progressive Arab regimes, at consolidating and eternalizing the Israeli occupation of Arab land, at liquidating the Palestinian issue--which is the basic issue and point of the Arab-Israeli conflict--at imposing and strengthening the U.S. presence and domination in the area of the Near and Middle East, and at delivering a blow to the national liberation movements of the peoples of the neighboring countries in Asia and Africa, particularly in the area of the Persian Gulf. All of this is to be achieved through the creation of an aggressive military pact between the United States, Israel and As-Sadat's regime and through the building of U.S. military bases on Egyptian territory."

The declaration further emphasizes: "As a result of the political and diplomatic activity of the countries of the Front of Steadfastness and of the Arab countries that are against the defeatist decisions, the PLO's intensified activity, the stand of the friendly countries at the Havana sixth nonalined countries' conference and the UN activity in particular, the countries of the Camp David accord have been isolated in the international arena and their agreements have been rejected as having no juridical or political significance."

The declaration emphasizes that "the socioeconomic and political crisis in Egypt has become more acute, the people's opposition has expanded and a mass struggle against the regime has developed." The repressions and terror have intensified in Egypt and thousands of fighters have been imprisoned. All this is evidence of the regime's weakness. "The normalization of relations and the establishment of diplomatic relations between Israel and As-Sadat's regime will be a decisive turning point and a beginning of the disintegration of this regime which is doomed to collapse."

"We are confident," the declaration concludes, "that the heroic Egyptian people are worthy enough of achieving this task of historic importance by taking advantage of the decisive moment when As-Sadat is carrying out his most disgraceful step and is fanning the fire that will destroy the foundations of his treacherous regime and will bury his and his masters' agreements and conspiracies forever."

VOP: MILITARY COUNCIL DISCUSSES DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTHERN LEBANON

NC031848 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1745 GMT 3 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Fatah Central Committee member Abu Jihad presided over a meeting of the Supreme Military Council of the Palestinian revolution at noon today. Our correspondent has learned that the meeting discussed the latest developments in southern Lebanon in light of recent U.S. moves.

PFLP LEADER GEORGE HABASH LEAVES FOR USSR 4 FEB

JN041246 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1245 GMT 4 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Beirut, 4 February--PFLP Secretary General Dr George Habash left for Moscow today on an extended visit to the Soviet Union. The Palestinian official will discuss developments in the Arab situation with the Soviet leaders.

OMAN

SULTAN QABUS VIEWS PDRY THREAT, GULF SECURITY

LD032128 Salalah Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 02 Feb 80 LD/EA

[Text] His Majesty Sultan Qabus has given an important and wide-ranging interview to the Saudi magazine IQRA, in which he spoke about the sultanate's position on a number of Gulf, Arab and Saudi issues.

In reply to a question on the future of Oman in the eighties, his majesty replied that we should be more secure and stable in the eighties because we had reached a stage where our feet were firmly on the ground and we had achieved our aims. We were now moving toward accomplishment of our greater hopes. We should start working on the second 5-year plan, to begin in 1981. It would be full of our great hopes. Our returns on oil and mineral resources will be good and increase, God willing. But all this was a transient matter and we should, from now on, employ our resources and income to serve the future of this country.

We do not believe that the government should do everything and there should be no indifference in matters of construction. The citizen also has his role. In construction, the government will have its share, as will the public sector. We shall seek the assistance of foreign expertise whenever we need it.

In reply to a question on development as a whole, his majesty said we support development on condition that all the contributory elements are available and good progress is guaranteed. I believe that this is what we have been doing since the beginning, namely, that we ought to allow matters in this country to take their natural course. Development should proceed from the people themselves and should not be improvised. If the people do not yet participate in the political arena they are nevertheless participating in the economy and its orientation. A day will come when the people will take part in all aspects of development.

Replying to another question, his majesty, may God preserve him, said that the danger facing Oman, the entire Arab Peninsula and the Gulf--unless conditions change--still (?comes) from South Yemen. This view does not stem from the fact that there is a state of enmity between us, but is based on realities: the Russian-Adenese treaty; the Adenese-Ethiopian treaty; the Czechoslovak-Adenese treaty; the Russian presence in Aden and the implementation of the secret articles in the treaty--all these indicate danger. All the treaty articles will soon become apparent. We are not speculating. The danger is not facing Oman alone, but the rest [of the emirates, too].

On Omani-Adenese relations, his majesty the sultan said that our endeavors went back to 1971, when we sent delegations and formed a friendship delegation which they refused to meet. The Arab League delegation arrived and we talked about mediation that could be undertaken by the Arab League. We asked for observers to supervise the situation. Aden refused. After that an atmosphere of calm prevailed and we rid ourselves, God be praised, of the Dhofar problem, which ended in 1975.

His majesty added that the brothers in Saudi Arabia attempted to mediate and there were wide-ranging talks. Oman put forward three conditions: cessation of propaganda and information campaigns; stopping interference; withdrawal of support for any quarter wanting to undertake sabotage in Oman. His majesty went on to say that we are able to interfere and deal with them on a quid pro quo basis. But we (?don't want) to do that, because we wish to desist from interfering in the affairs of others. But friends should not use us as a bridge [sentence as heard]. This is a warning to the Arab states.

The Saudi mediation was followed by Kuwaiti mediation, which is continuing. In fact they have not objected to the conditions but they are dragging their feet.

His majesty the sultan said that the dispute between us and Aden was not over territory or borders. They had more than they deserved.

They want to tell brothers in the Gulf they want peace so that the doors of treasuries may be opened for them. But we have allowed them no escape by laying down our conditions. We will [word indistinct] those persons who want dialogue with any [word indistinct]. It is the Foreign Ministry that should direct any such dialogue since it is diplomatically qualified to do so. But we intervene when the tactics change. The points to be taken in the dialogue we leave to the brothers, for they are aware of them.

On his majesty's concept of Gulf security, its defense, and coordination among the Gulf states in this subject, the monarch said the Omani concept was clear and we had been reiterating it to our brothers for some time now, ever since we met them in Abu Dhabi in 1973. However, it seemed there were other views, since there were no responses. We had our ideas on the subject, namely that we were living in the same region and had the same destiny and future. For this reason, coordination of this matter was a national duty. Such coordination should involve exchange of information, whether favorable or otherwise. We ought to take such information into consideration and investigate it. That was why we attached great importance to the unification of forces and communications.

Thus, if any threat arose, then the unified forces would be there to serve and protect us. But naturally, such a thing takes time. And you can see unity in Europe and its advantages. We here do not want pacts [ar ahlaf]. We are brothers, but unfortunately [words indistinct] and up to now the states of the region have not held military maneuvers. And there is another thing, such as emigration, upon which limits must be imposed, but nothing has been done to date. There are brothers who exaggerate such dangers and others who underestimate them.

Referring to the Strait of Hormuz, his majesty said: This is a matter vital to all, not only to Oman, and that is why we have worked out a plan involving all the means needed which will insure its security. The plan is based on the concept that we should rely upon ourselves, not on others, and thus strengthen the sultanate with what it needs in the way of aircraft and instruments for monitoring and (?scanning) and in order to check on submarines passing through the strait without us knowing about them; minesweepers and other things we need for surveillance, such as radar. Naturally there are others who use this strait and it is from them that we shall buy and it is they who will train our cadres to use all this equipment. So why do they not help us in [words indistinct] by contributing money and training? Perhaps Japan or any other state using this strait will contribute whatever it can.

His majesty went on to say: Baghdad started saying that this plan was a colonialist one. I warned them against foreign forces and [words indistinct]. We must prepare ourselves, for when those people come, they will ask neither our leave nor yours, so we must not fool ourselves.

His majesty said: There are others who are trying to (?blacken) the face of Oman, but we say frankly that if we have no alternative and they force themselves upon us, then they must know that we have the capability to maintain our unity and cohesion.

Referring to Oman-Iran relations, his majesty the sultan said: Ever since the new Iran came into being our relations have remained unchanged and our embassies have not [words indistinct]. We base our actions on the principle of noninterference in the affairs of others, so we shall go on dealing with them smoothly as we have done throughout the course of history and for as long as they want things that way. To date, no problems have arisen between us and what has happened in Iran is something that concerns the Iranians alone. We must not interfere in the affairs of others as long as they do not interfere in our affairs. I pray to God that there should be a stable government in Iran able to maintain security so that we shall be able to see Iran with us in (?the task of solving) internal problems.

Referring to the danger threatening the Strait of Hormuz, his majesty said: We cannot (?identify) the source of this threat, for there are many sources throughout the world of ship and aircraft hijackings. In the world there are sources and persons who do evil, motivated either by themselves or instigated by others, so we must keep our eyes open to any threat. But I am confident that prevention is better than a thousand remedies.

We must establish a plan of a warning order on the closure, not today or tomorrow, but we must [words indistinct] the strait. His majesty said that from the geographical point of view one or two ships could not be used to block the strait completely, but as far as such people are concerned, this could produce reactions and perhaps a real blockage, which at a specific time, could produce grave reactions. The Omani Interior Ministry has a plan for the protection of the strait, which it has submitted to the (?ARAMCO) organization, which has agreed to it. So the danger is partial, not total, and it will produce reactions [words indistinct] the region.

Replying to a question about the sultanate's position vis-a-vis the Egyptian-Israeli agreement, his majesty said: The concept was based on the conclusion that the time had come for a peace plan to be made. We agreed in the sphere of peace that it was essential to open the door. This question was submitted at Rabat: Arabs, are you prepared to make war with Israel on this [word indistinct] and the answer was: No, the Rabat conference is not prepared. if an agreement was reached, if all the ways were explored to find a peaceful solution which guarantees Palestinian rights, the return of the occupied territories, the establishment of a government for the Palestinians in their territories and the restoration of East Jerusalem to Islamic authority. His majesty added: In fact I [word indistinct] President as-Sadat that he took the first step, but we chided him for doing so without consulting his brothers and friends. But in his reply President as-Sadat [words indistinct]. Had President as-Sadat consulted his Arab brothers before going to Jerusalem and had they not approved and had he then gone, it would have been an act of defiance on his part, but he preferred not to consult, so that the blame (?would fall upon him alone). But he told everyone of the principles agreed upon in his speech to the Israeli Knesset.

Some people say that President as-Sadat [word indistinct] and that was his aim. I do not see any contradiction between As-Sadat's trying to get back his territory or anyone else's territory, but can he get back other people's territory without the help of those others? His majesty went on to say: We shall support Egypt for as long as it continues to work towards bringing these objectives to realization.

PDRY

KUWAITI PAPER SAYS USSR BUILDING SUBMARINE PENS IN PDRY

JN050831 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0815 GMT 5 Feb 80 JN

[Text] Kuwait, 5 February--The newspaper AL-ANBA' reports here today that the Soviet Union has recently begun to build pens for Soviet nuclear submarines in PDRY territorial waters, in cooperation with the PDRY Government. The paper cites sources in the French capital as saying that important naval and air military supplies have recently arrived in the PDRY.

QATAR

OIL MINISTER EXPECTS OIL PRICES TO CONTINUE RISING

LD041046 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0755 GMT 4 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Kuwait, 4 February--Qatari Oil Minister Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz Khalifah Al Thani has stated that he expects oil prices to continue to rise while they remained governed by market factors, Kuwaiti AS-SIYASAH reports today. The paper adds that the minister gave the impression in a statement made to it, that the question of price rates will remain "open" as long as they remain subject to offer and demand.

A few days ago Qatar joined other oil producing countries in raising the prices of its oil following OPEC's failure to agree on a unified price structure for the first half of 1980.

The minister said that his country does not plan to link its prices of oil with those prevalent on the spot market, which are higher than the declared official prices. He also said that Qatar's oil production will remain at its present rate of 500,000 barrels a day "for technical and production reasons."

SAUDI ARABIA

PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER BRZEZINSKI ARRIVES 4 FEB

LD041029 Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1010 GMT 4 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Riyadh, 4 February--U.S. Presidential Adviser for National Security Zbigniew Brzezinski arrived in Riyadh at noon today on a visit to the Saudi Arabian Kingdom.

He was welcomed at the airport by Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Thunayyan, Foreign Ministry under secretary for political affairs Shaykh 'Abd ar-Rahman Mansuri, the Saudi ambassador to the United States Shaykh Faysal al-Hegelan and U.S. ambassador to Saudi Arabia John West.

Talks With Prince Fahd

LD041251 Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1145 GMT 4 Feb 80 LD

[Text] His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister, this afternoon held a meeting with Zbigniew Brzezinski, U.S. presidential adviser for national security.

The meeting was attended on the Saudi side by Shaykh 'Abd ar-Rahman al-Mansuri, under secretary of the Foreign Ministry for political affairs; Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Thunayyan, under secretary of the Foreign Ministry; Shaykh Faysal al-Hegelan, the kingdom's ambassador to Washington, and a number of senior officials of the Foreign Ministry. It was attended on the American side by Warren Christopher, deputy secretary of state; Mr John West, U.S. ambassador to the kingdom, and senior members of the delegation accompanying Brzezinski.

During the meeting the development of the situation in the Middle East region, bilateral relations and current international circumstances were discussed.

His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal at noon today held a luncheon banquet in honor of the American delegation.

Talks Continue

LD041742 Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1715 GMT 4 Jan 80 LD

[Text] Riyadh, February 4, SNA--His Royal Highness Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince and deputy prime minister received Mr Brzezinski, adviser to the U.S. president on national security affairs, at 1930 this evening in his office at the royal cabinet.

The audience was attended by His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister; Dr Rashad Fir'awm, adviser to his majesty the king; Shaykh 'Abd ar-Rahman al-Mansur, undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry for political affairs; Shaykh Faysal al-Hegelan, Saudi ambassador to the United States; and Mr John West, U.S. ambassador to the kingdom, and the members of the delegation accompanying Mr Brzezinski.

Further Talks

LD051100 Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1022 GMT 5 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Riyadh, 5 February--His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, held a meeting this morning with Zbigniew Brzezinski, the assistant to the U.S. President for national security affairs, during which they resumed the discussions which they began yesterday.

On the Saudi side, the meeting was attended by Shaykh 'Abd ar-Rahman Mansuri, the under secretary for political affairs in the Foreign Ministry; Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz ath-Thunayyan, under secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Shaykh Faysal al-Hegelan, the kingdom's ambassador to Washington.

On the American side, it was attended by Deputy Secretary of State Warren Christopher and American ambassador to the kingdom John West.

Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal and the adviser to the American President, who arrived in Riyadh yesterday, discussed during their meetings yesterday the situation in the Middle East, the current international conditions and bilateral relations between the two countries.

PRESS STATEMENT, REPORTAGE ON KREISKY-FAHD TALKS

Press Statement

ID041234 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 4 Feb 80 ID

[Text] A press statement was issued today on the visit by Austrian Chancellor Dr Bruno Kreisky to the kingdom and his talks with Deputy Prime Minister and Crown Prince Fahd. The statement reads as follows:

At the invitation of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, deputy prime minister of the Saudi Arabian Kingdom, Austrian Chancellor Dr Bruno Kreisky paid an official visit to the Saudi Arabian Kingdom 2 through 4 February 1980.

Austrian Chancellor Dr Bruno Kreisky, held cordial talks with His Royal Highness Deputy Prime Minister Crown Prince Fahd. The two men reviewed international problems in general, devoting special attention to the situation in Afghanistan.

His Royal Highness Deputy Prime Minister Crown Prince Fahd expressed to the Austrian Chancellor the Saudi Arabian Kingdom's extreme concern over the flagrant Soviet intervention in Afghan affairs. They denounced the intervention and expressed their hope that the efforts being exerted to safeguard the Afghan people's independence and to secure the withdrawal of the Soviet forces will be successful.

The two sides also devoted special attention to the Middle East problem in view of the constant threat it poses to security and stability in the Middle East, the European continent and world peace and security. They reiterated their rejection of the principle of forcible annexation of territory and affirmed that any just and peaceful settlement must be based on the recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination and the establishment of their national homeland on their own territory, and based on Israeli withdrawal from all the Arab territories occupied in 1967.

They also agreed that the reaching of a just solution for the Palestine question is essential for achieving a comprehensive settlement in the Middle East.

They also reviewed bilateral relations between the two countries and expressed their satisfaction at the recent substantial growth and development taking place in these relations. They agreed that the visit will help to bolster the ties of friendship and good relations between the two countries.

Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky also held several meetings with Saudi Government officials.

Dr Kreisky voiced his gratitude for the welcome and hospitality he and the members of his delegation received during their visit to the kingdom.

Austrian Chancellor Dr Bruno Kreisky made an official invitation to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, deputy prime minister, to visit Austria. The invitation was accepted and the date will be fixed later through diplomatic channels.

Austrian Press Report

AU041302 Vienna DIE PRESSE in German 4 Feb 80 p 1 AU

[Georg Possanner report from Riyadh: "Saudi Oil for Austria, Tanks for Riyadh?"]

[Text] Saudi Arabia is ready to deliver oil to Austria. This was stated by Chancellor Kreisky on Sunday [3 February] after talks with Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the Saudi crown prince and head of the government [as published]. The crown prince also made optimistic statements concerning the purchase of tanks from the [Austrian] Steyr Company. Before leaving Riyadh, Kreisky also had a surprise talk with Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat, at the latter's request. Kreisky will return to Vienna on Monday.

The chancellor refused to comment on the extent of the oil shipments. Austria is purportedly interested in receiving 34,000 barrels [of oil] a day. Kreisky wants to leave the details of the oil transaction to the experts; as regards the tank transaction, Defense Minister Roesch is expected in Saudi Arabia on 29 March.

On Saturday afternoon, Kreisky left New Delhi on a Saudi Government plane. He was received [in Riyadh] with full military honors. During the talks on the international situation and on the Mideast problem, Saudi Arabia advocated a tough stand towards the Soviet Union, while the chancellor cautioned against boycott measures.

[Crown Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud said] The leading role played by Saudi Arabia at the Islamabad Islamic conference centered on religious solidarity with Afghanistan and on the fact that a country of that region has fallen victim to aggression. Crown Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud is also reported to have underlined that the Mideast problem as such should not be overshadowed by the events in Iran and Afghanistan. The economic talks in the afternoon were also attended by representatives of the Austrian economy.

Kreisky's visit is taking place against the backdrop of a flurry of American diplomatic visits to Saudi Arabia. After the visit by special envoy Linowitz, National Security Adviser Brzezinski is expected shortly.

"Soviets Will Have No Oil in 10 Years"

In a talk with Austrian journalists, Saudi Arabian Information Minister Muhammad 'Abduh Yamani predicted that the Soviet Union will have no more oil at its disposal in 10 years. It would then be extremely dependent on Western technology in order to effect the necessary drillings at great depths. Muhammad 'Abduh Yamani therefore proposed economic sanctions and the stopping of technology transfer to the Soviets. The situation, he said, does not require a display of power, but the right tactics, diplomatic activities and tough economic and technical measures.

The obvious crime perpetrated by the Soviets on an innocent country was reminiscent of the old days of colonialism, he said.

Muhammad 'Abduh Yamani mentioned PLO chief 'Arafat's criticism of U.S. President Carter whom he characterized as a "cowboy." He said that characterization was "not very productive." The PLO, he said, is obviously experiencing a stage of internal insecurity.

UAE

AL-'UTAYBAH ANNOUNCES 6.96 PERCENT INCREASE IN LIQUID GAS PRICE

NC031645 Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1603 GMT 3 Feb 80 NC

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 3 February--Petroleum and Natural Resources Minister Dr Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah today announced a 6.96 percent increase in the price of liquid gas in the UAE retroactive to 1 January 1980.

YAR

PRIME MINISTER URGES HASTENING OF UNITY PROCESS

LD042222 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 3 Feb 80 LD/EA

[Text] Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, prime minister in the northern part of the homeland, has received the members of the joint legislative and judicial committee of the two Yemens, with whom he discussed what has recently been achieved and urged them to hasten the process of legislation and the drafting of law to enable the unity government to be set up.

The minutes of the committee's sessions and the final statement on the first round of talks in 1980 have been signed.

PDRY JUSTICE MINISTER LEAVES FOLLOWING UNITY TALKS

JN032105 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Feb 80 JN

[Excerpts] Brother Khalid Fadl Mansur, minister of justice, and the members of the South Yemeni side to the joint legislative and juridical committee left San'a' today for Aden at the end of the committee's session.

The committee issued the following statement: In the name of God the merciful the compassionate. The joint Yemeni legislative and juridical committee held its second session for 1980 from 11 to 17 Rabi' al-Awwal 1400 Hegira, corresponding to 28 January to 3 February 1980. The committee resumed discussion of the draft penal code for unified Yemen. The North Yemeni side was headed by Al-Qadi Isma'il al-Hajji, chairman of the Islamic law committee, and the South Yemeni side by brother Khalid Fadl Mansur, minister of justice. During this session, the joint committee completed discussion of the chapter on crimes and process of justice. The meeting was marked by a cordial and fraternal spirit.

It was agreed that the committee will continue discussion of the draft penal code in the next session.

PRC FOREIGN TRADE MINISTRY OFFICIAL ARRIVES

JN041809 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1600 GMT 4 Feb 80 JN

[Text] San'a', 4 February--Zheng Yishan, PRC vice minister of foreign trade, arrived here today at the head of a trade and economics delegation on a 3-day visit to the YAR.

The PRC official will discuss with YAR officials issues of bilateral cooperation in the fields of trade and economics.

CONSULTATIONS UNDERWAY ON VENUE FOR AUTONOMY TALKS

NC041946 Cairo MENA in English 1850 GMT 4 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, Feb 4--(MENA)--The objective of holding the forthcoming tripartite meeting between the three heads of delegations to the Palestinian autonomy negotiations in a European capital is to attract the attention of world opinion so as to secure its contribution along with Egyptian efforts, MENA learned from an official source here today.

Israel Radio had broadcast that the proposed meeting comprising Premier Mustafa Khalil, Israeli chief delegate Yosef Burg and American presidential envoy Sol Linowitz would take place in Paris.

However, the Egyptian and American sides confirmed that consultations were still underway on naming a venue for the meeting.

DEFENSE MINISTER DISCUSSES U.S. ARMS DEAL, OTHER ISSUES

NC020912 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0728 GMT 2 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, 2 February--Egyptian Defense and War Production Minister Gen Kamal Hasan 'Ali has stated that the military cooperation with the United States is based on providing Egyptian technicians in the armed forces to obviate the need for the presence of U.S. experts to train Egyptians. Egypt, he added, sends its own sons to the United States for training there.

In a statement published by AL-AHRAM today, the defense minister referred to the new arms deal with the United States, saying that Egypt cannot see any fault in this as compared to its reliance in the sixties on the Soviet Union as the main source of arms, in that the United States follows different principles and does not ask for a treaty or bases in return for supplying arms to Egypt. Moreover, he added, we have our own strategy and policy that conform with those of the United States.

Gen Kamal Hasan 'Ali said that the new U.S. arms deal includes F-16's and M-60 tanks. He added that determining the number of planes and tanks will require more discussions this month. However, he expressed the belief that the number will be sufficient to meet Egypt's defensive needs in order to confront any aggression and discharge its responsibilities toward the Arab world when an Arab state asks it to do so.

In his statement, the Egyptian defense minister said: The only time we will need U.S. experts is when we receive new weapons. He explained that as was the case with the F-4's, we might need the experts for maintenance work for a limited period, after which they will return to the United States.

Gen Kamal Hasan 'Ali said: We have obtained the necessary license for producing FA and FG aircraft. However, this matter, particularly the financial aspect, requires more discussions. The defense minister asserted that Egypt has the ability to produce such aircraft.

On increasing the Egyptian defense budget by 10 percent, Gen Kamal Hasan 'Ali said that the purpose of the increase is to compensate for inflation and the universal increase in prices. He reaffirmed that our policy is to provide sophisticated modern weapons and reduce the number of soldiers in the armed forces.

Concerning the facilities which Egypt would grant to the United States if any Arab Gulf state is threatened, the Egyptian defense minister said: Such facilities would not be different from the facilities Egypt previously granted to the Soviet Union. The only difference is that the Soviet Union depended on naval facilities, whereas the United States has asked for air facilities.

On the possibility of Egypt's carrying out a role for the United States similar to the role Cuba is carrying out for the Soviet Union, the defense minister said: The situation is entirely different because we do not go to South America to fight others. We are defending our territory in accordance with existing agreements and on the basis of the strong relations and ties between Egypt and the Arab world.

SYRIA REPORTEDLY SEIZED EQUIPMENT BOUND FOR EGYPT

NC020851 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0725 GMT 2 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, 2 February--The Syrian Government has seized a shipment of scientific equipment that was sent from the United States to Egypt but reached Damascus Airport by mistake.

In a statement published by AL-AHRAM today, Dr Muhammad 'Abd al-Habi, director of the Remote-Sensing Center in Cairo, says that the shipment consists of 17 sophisticated scientific apparatuses including large computers, some delicate electronic circuits involved in analyzing satellite tapes, and electronic testing equipment.

Dr Muhammad 'Abd al-Hadi adds that some of the equipment that was shipped required a special export permit from the U.S. Government because of the sophisticated technology involved in its design and manufacture.

The U.S. Heath Company had consigned the electronic equipment to the Remote-Sensing Center in Cairo in implementation of a scientific cooperation agreement that was concluded with NASA and the American National Science Foundation. The shipment arrived at Damascus Airport, but Syrian authorities denied its existence for 6 months, only recently admitting it but refusing to either reconsign the shipment or hand it over to the U.S. shipping company, finally declaring that they had seized it.

The Egyptian Remote-Sensing Center communicated the details of the incident to U.S. authorities and the Egyptian Embassy in Washington after the shipping company involved declared that the Syrian authorities had refused to hand over the electric equipment.

MENA: ARAB ASSETS IN EGYPT TO BE SETTLED

NC030905 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0755 GMT 3 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, 3 February--Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade Dr Hamid as-Sayih has said that President Anwar as-Sadat has given instructions to settle the problem of Arab deposits in the Central Bank in accordance with Egypt's commitment not to freeze Arab and foreign assets in Egypt nor to damage the Egyptian national economy. Dr Hamid as-Sayih affirmed that Egypt will fulfill all its obligations. He added that Egypt maintains contact with the IMF and that yesterday he contacted Central Bank Governor Muhammad 'Abd al-Fattah Ibrahim to agree on whether the International Bank would send a delegate or to instruct the Egyptian Central Bank's representative, 'Umar Najm, who is presently in Washington, to contact the IMF officials to discuss means for setting this question.

PRESIDENT VOICES SUPPORT FOR ARAB-EUROPEAN DIALOG

JN312032 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2000 GMT 31 Jan 80 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 31 January--President Saddam Husayn has reiterated that the Arab nation wishes to hold a dialog and contacts with Europe, provided that Europe deals with us as one nation and not as a divided nation. The dialog should not serve or preserve division.

Addressing the delegations participating in the journalists' Arab-European dialog symposium, who attended a dinner banquet hosted in their honor by his excellency tonight, President Saddam Husayn said: We believe that the Arab-European dialog and their common interests, strategies and objectives serve mankind and not the Arab nation and Europe alone.

CUBAN DELEGATION LEAVES FOLLOWING 5-DAY VISIT

JN041042 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0915 GMT 4 Feb 80 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 4 February--Hector Rodriguez, Cuban Communist Party Central Committee member and chairman of the Foreign Economic Relations Committee, left Baghdad this morning with his accompanying delegation after a 5-day visit to Iraq.

Rodriguez said that during the visit, he held talks with RCC member and Trade Minister Hasan 'Ali on ways to strengthen bilateral economic cooperation and to pursue the implemented articles of the minutes signed during the meetings of the joint Iraqi-Cuban committee for economic and trade cooperation held in Havana recently.

The Cuban official reaffirmed that the delegation's visit will result in stronger cooperation in developing the two friendly countries' relations.

IRRIGATION MINISTER MEETS SOVIET ECONOMIC OFFICIAL

JN021102 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1015 GMT 2 Feb 80 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 2 February--Iraqi Irrigation Minister 'Abd al-Wahab Mahmud 'Abdallah met here today with Alikhanov, deputy chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations. The discussion at the meeting dealt with cooperation between the two countries in the field of irrigation, the obstacles which are impeding several irrigation projects in Iraq and ways to overcome these obstacles. Agreement was reached to exert efforts to implement these projects on schedule.

MALIAN PRESIDENT TRAORE ARRIVES 4 FEB

JN041521 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1505 GMT 4 Feb 80 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 4 February--Malian President Moussa Traore arrived here this afternoon on a visit of several days to Iraq. The visit is being made at the invitation of President Saddam Husayn.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER REPORTS ON READINESS OF POPULAR ARMY

JN031447 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1330 GMT 3 Feb 80 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 3 February--Taha Yasin Ramadan, Iraqi first deputy prime minister and commander in chief of the Popular Army, has announced that a quarter million popular Army fighters have been trained in the use of all sorts of modern weapons.

In a press conference he held here today on the occasion of celebrations marking the 17th anniversary of 8 February and the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the Popular Army, Taha Yasin Ramadan said: Those fighters can reach their concentration posts in less than 1 hour.

He added: The fighters who are capable of carrying arms to defend the homeland and the Arab nation are constantly growing in number and work is continuing to construct and develop these popular formations technically and to prepare them for emergencies so the regular army can devote itself to its basic tasks.

He pointed out that the leadership has studied the various aspects of the experiment of training the Popular Army and in light of that the customary training methods were reconsidered so as to prepare the fighter to be ready to fight at any place inside and outside Iraq because the task of the fighter--who is one of the party's strugglers--is both regional and pan-Arab; these are inseparable.

Ramadan disclosed that the Popular Army's commando forces have increased in number to tens of thousands and that these forces can reach their designated targets in less than 30 minutes.

FOREIGN MINISTER THANKS STATES FOR VOTE ON CAMP DAVID ACCORDS

JN021834 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1810 GMT 2 Feb 80 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 2 February--Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi has expressed the Iraqi Government's thanks and appreciation to the states that voted for the UN General Assembly resolution on the illegitimacy of the Camp David accords.

In messages he sent to these states' foreign ministers, Dr Hammadi Said: These honorable stands are appreciated and respected by the Iraqi people and government. They have reaffirmed to the world that there can be no solution to the Palestinian issue, which is the crux of the Arab-Zionist struggle, without insuring the Palestinian Arab people's inalienable rights.

It will be recalled that the UN resolution stipulated the illegitimacy of agreements that seek to determine the Palestinian Arab people's future in isolation from the United Nations and the PLO's participation.

BORDER FORCES COMMANDER LEAVES FOR BERLIN

JN011656 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1645 GMT 1 Feb 80 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 1 February--The commander of the border forces left Baghdad for Berlin today, leading a delegation on a 5-day visit to the GDR. The visit is aimed at exchanging expertise and developing cooperation between the two countries' border forces.

MINISTER OF STATE ADDRESSES EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

JN010904 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 1 Feb 80 p 2 JN

["Text" of address delivered by Marwan al-Qasim, Jordanian minister of state for foreign affairs, on 31 January to the European Parliament in Strasbourg]

[Text] Mr President: It is my deep privilege to be invited by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe to present Jordan's views pertaining to the Arab-Israeli conflict before your august meeting, representing as it does the twenty-one democracies of Europe.

We are deeply heartened to witness the assembly pursuing a policy geared to a peaceful resolution of global, regional, and subregional disputes.

Jordan has a unique position vis-a-vis the Arab-Israeli conflict. Geographically, Jordan is considered in the forefront of the Arab encounter with the Israeli experience. Because of its location, it bore the major brunt of the exodus of the Palestinian people in 1948. The suffering and agony of the Palestinian people were mainly shared by Jordan since it concerned itself immediately, after their forcible eviction from their land, in extending whatever assistance it could and in joining with the Palestinian West Bank in a constitutional and democratic union.

Historically, Jordan has its deep-rooted commitments to Arab heritage and aspirations. After all, it was Ash-Sharif Husayn of Mecca who led the Arab revolt against the Ottoman Empire, with the hope of uniting the Arab people and bringing about a united Arab states. Since 1948 the region has witnessed many "peace efforts" which failed to bring stability to the area. From Count Bernadotte to Ralph Bunche, to Hammarskjold, to U Thant, to Jarring, to Kissinger, and now to Camp David, we have seen no real hope for peace in this part of the world. I believe that never have there been more attempts by international third parties aimed at resolving a conflict than the Middle East.

The cause for the failure to attain peace in this troubled region is due to the inability of the third parties sponsoring these efforts to act effectively in accordance with the findings they arrive at as a result of their investigations.

Since 1967 until this day, territories of three Arab states are still under Israeli military occupation. Arab Jerusalem, one of the holiest spiritual and cultural legacies of over a billion and a half followers of three faiths, has been unilaterally annexed. The implanting of settlements on the occupied West Bank, Gaza, and the Golan Heights is increasing by the day.

A few years back, the Israelis were saying that they had no territorial designs and all they wanted was peace. Yet today, the world sees what His Majesty King Husayn saw as far back as June, 1967. In an address before the (U.N.) General Assembly he declared that Israel could have land or peace; it could not have both. Israel is making it clear every day that it wants the occupied land and Arab recognition and peace ever since 1967.

Jordan has been striving for a just peace and this shall always be our legitimate goal for our people and the region.

We have incessantly worked for a just and lasting peace and feel that one has to examine objectively the principles on which a comprehensive settlement can be realised.

Jordan sees the following principles as essential:

--1. A comprehensive settlement which tackles the manifold dimensions of the Palestinian cause and the Arab-Israeli conflict to which it has given rise. It must ensure restoration of Palestinian rights over Palestinian soil as well as Arab rights in a comprehensive form, and on all fronts and with participation of all parties concerned.

--2. A comprehensive settlement must be based upon complete Israeli withdrawal from all the Arab territories occupied in 1967, with the restoration of Arab sovereignty over occupied Arab Jerusalem.

--3. The Palestinian people should determine their future in total freedom in order to build their free national entity.

Now, looking at the most recent attempt at solving the Middle East problem, namely the Camp David accords, Jordan sees no hope that this formula would lead to the peace which Jordan has been committed to and which will ensure stability and security in the region. We feel it could not succeed because of very substantial and inescapable considerations. The accords contain no clear provisions for total withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories in the context of a just settlement. There is no provision for the restoration of Palestinian rights, including the right of self-determination.

The unilateral acceptance, on the part of Egypt, to enter into a separate peace treaty with Israel does not, and will not, bring us closer to real peace because it has no solid foundation. Egypt has isolated itself from the mainstream of Arab aspirations for a genuine and comprehensive settlement and has weakened the chance of a durable peace.

Europe, I hope by now, appreciates why Jordan and eighteen Arab states have not chosen to support the Camp David accords. The Camp David accords provided none of the elements of a just and lasting peace which could endure and gain the support of the peoples directly concerned.

Mr President: The Arab world saw the accords basically as altering the premises upon which a just and lasting peace could be achieved. They circumvented the major principles pertaining to the restoration of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and the universally recognised principles of international law on the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force.

The accords, though masquerading under the term of "relocation of forces on security grounds," in fact are perpetuating the military occupation. The autonomy plan enshrined in the accords projects itself as an improvement to outright military occupation. But, again, 1.2 million Palestinians living in the West Bank and Gaza remain far, far away from the right to self-determination, let alone the multitudes of displaced refugees and persons dispossessed in camps scattered in Jordan, Syria and Lebanon, and elsewhere, who, within a comprehensive settlement, would have the same rights.

The autonomy plan remains vague on the Arab sector of Jerusalem and its suburbs. This omission will contribute to continued instability and an endless conflict in which far more than the Arab world would inevitably be involved. Jerusalem, to the Islamic world, is the first direction to which people turn for prayer, and it is from Al-Aqsa Mosque that Muslims believe the Prophet Muhammad ascended to heaven.

Upon examining the map of the West Bank, one can easily conclude that, with the illegal Israeli unilateral annexation of Jerusalem, the area of the West Bank is seriously diminished because Jerusalem and its surroundings make up the largest urban and cultural concentration. Therefore, the insistence of Israel on annexing the Arab city entails the perpetuation of its design to expand territorially through military conquest. The world is presently witnessing the Israeli attempts, while negotiating with Egypt, in consolidating their hold by continuously implanting Israeli settlements.

Mr President: The world cannot but agree with our fears of thirty years of Israeli expansionist designs, for the world sees with us now that while Israel is talking peace and normalising relations with Egypt on one hand, it is entrenching itself in the West Bank and Gaza on the other hand. During the last two years, even the main architects of Camp David were left in an embarassing situation resulting from the behaviour and statements of the Israeli leadership. Mr Begin, addressing the Knesset on March 20, 1979, stated that "Israel will never return to pre-1967 lines." Again, replying to Mustafa Khalil, the prime minister of Egypt, on Jerusalem, he said: "Mark my words. United Jerusalem is the eternal capital of Israel," and we will never accept a Palestinian state on the West Bank and Gaza. As for self-rule for the Palestinians, he said "We never agreed to autonomy for the territories, but for the inhabitants."

Mr President, the Arabs have been dealing with this Israeli reality for the last thirty years. It is a reality different from its interpretation in the West. The Western mind deals with a different Israel. It deals with a romantic and idealised entity that does not exist in reality.

We hope that a realistic approach is to be considered by Europe for the sake of world peace and security. Jordan, Mr President, desires peace, but a just and lasting one. This dictates upon us the task of returning to the right path which would deal with these essentials:

--1. A commitment to total withdrawal of Israeli military forces from all the Arab territories, including Arab Jerusalem.

--2. Acceptance of the need to find a just solution to the Palestinian question including the right of self-determination for the Palestinian people and the establishment of its national entity.

--3. The full participation in the comprehensive peace process of all parties in the conflict, including the PLO.

Those are the ingredients for a durable peace which has to be just and comprehensive and without which the region will continue in its turbulence, thus lessening the chances of world stability.

Mr President: My presence today is a sign of willingness to continue a frank and constructive dialogue. I hope that such a dialogue would emphasise the facts that Israel can have peace, but not hegemony, security but not domination, and that militarism, in the final analysis, is self-defeating.

A lasting peace can never rest upon the sharp edge of the bayonet, but on goodwill, amity, and voluntary mutual acceptance of justice and equity.

Mr President: Before ending, I wish to take this opportunity to stress that the ninth and tenth Arab summit conferences held in Baghdad and Tunis urged the achievement of a just peace and that the peace process should be put back on the right track and within the context of the United Nations Charter and framework. A lasting peace for the troubled region must be inspired by guidelines emanating from a sense of justice, principles prescribed by law, and relevant U.N. resolutions which have given concrete embodiment to these eternal scales of justice.

PREMIER SHARAF DISCUSSES NATIONAL OIL PROBLEMS

JN041800 Amman JNA in Arabic 1530 GMT 4 Feb 80 JN

[Excerpts] Amman, 4 February--Prime Minister ash-Sharif 'Abd al-Hamid Sharaf has said that in light of the increase in oil prices, Jordan's imported crude oil needs will amount to 112 million dinars this year. This amount, his excellency added, comes to more than half of Jordan's local revenues. He said that it is now incumbent upon the government to subsidize the prices of fuel to the amount of 61 million dinars annually.

In his address to the National Consultative Council today, the prime minister said: I would like to explain some facts and to acquaint the honorable council with the repercussions of international oil prices on Jordan. Jordan is wholly dependant upon imported crude oil.

His excellency said that high-level contacts took place in the past with our Arab brothers, particularly the oil-producing and -exporting countries. We, his excellency added, have discussed this topic clearly, frankly and with a spirit of brotherhood, given that the Arab homeland must contribute to shouldering the responsibility and burdens based on the principle of Arab solidarity, support of steadfastness and confronting the challenges facing the Arab nation. Our homeland must also consider the hard circumstances engulfing the Arab countries which do not produce oil.

His excellency added: The increase in oil prices is bound to disrupt not only our development, armament and military programs, but will also afflict the country with heavy social burdens.

The prime minister said: This subject is under discussion with our brothers in the fraternal countries. Since it its responsibilities, the government has been thoroughly studying the ways and means to remedy this situation through guidance concerning consumption and the approrpirate measures by which we can absorb and surmount the crisis. This could be achieved by drawing up programs that would consider our circumstances and those of the citizens.

AR-RA'Y Comment on Energy

JN031720 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 3 Feb 80 pp 1, 14 JN

[Editorial: "We and the Oil Prices"]

[Excerpts] It is no secret that the rapid increases in the international prices of oil had and are still having a direct effect on the Jordanian treasury.

This is manifested in the growing subsidies paid by the government to enable Jordanians to preserve a reasonable standard of living, because the prices of the sources of energy are essential factors in determining the standard of living of the people. Thus, our treasury has paid out enormous amounts of money, rising from 21 million to 52 million Jordanian dinars annually. This burden continues to increase and to affect the economy.

Jordan sincerely understands the right of the oil countries in the Third World, including the sister Arab states, to preserve their basic wealth for as long as they can and to insure a better future for coming generations. Jordan also understands their struggle in their relations with the big industrial states. However, Jordan has the right to find a similar understanding for its circumstances, burdens and responsibilities, especially since Jordan is affected by both the enormous increases in oil prices and the increasing prices of the commodities that are imported from the industrialized countries. Jordan is trying to preserve a reasonable standard of living for its people and at the same time, is going ahead in its efforts to bolster its strength and carry out its pan-Arab responsibilities.

We are not ungrateful for the financial aid given us by our brothers but it is time our brothers realize that the spiraling oil prices are devouring much of our resources. It is necessary that a permanent solution be found which might ward off the dangers of oil price increases. This is dictated by the bonds of brotherhood, by the pan-Arab responsibility and by the common struggle to defend the Arab cause.

GOVERNMENT REPORTED STILL DETAINING MANY POLITICAL PRISONERS

NC040832 Beirut AN-NAHAR in Arabic 1 Feb 80 p 12 NC

[Text] "The committee for the defense of democratic freedoms in Jordan" held a press conference in Beirut yesterday, at which it accused the Jordanian authorities of "misleading the public by suggesting that many political detainees have been released recently."

A statement delivered at the conference said that many political prisoners and Palestinian fedayeen are still in prison.

The statement was commenting on a Jordanian royal decree pardoning more than 800 prisoners on 20 January. The statement added that only 12 Palestinian fighters were released, all of them had served most of their prison term.

The statement concluded by saying: "We reaffirm that the Jordanian authorities are still detaining hundreds of fighters of our people, torturing them and refusing to commit many of them to trial."

AL-HUSS RETURNS TO BEIRUT, SAYS SYRIAN WITHDRAWAL 'IRREVERSIBLE'

NC041820 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 4 Feb 80 NC

[Text] At 1915 today, President Ilyas Sarkis received Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss in the presence of Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus. Prime Minister al-Huss returned to Beirut from Damascus tonight after talks with Syrian officials that resulted in postponing the withdrawal of the Syrian forces from Beirut for a few days until Lebanese authorities make the necessary arrangements to fill any vacuum that might arise. Upon his arrival from Damascus, Prime Minister al-Huss made the following statement:

[Begin announcer read statement] My talks with the officials in fraternal Syria, above all with his excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, dealt with various questions connected with bilateral relations, with particular emphasis, naturally, on the question of the hour: The decision to withdraw the Syrian forces that are serving with the Arab Deterrent Forces [ADF] from some points, especially from Beirut. Discussions centered on the dimensions of this matter and on the reasons that prompted the Syrian authorities to take it.

As a result of these talks, it was decided to postpone the implementation of this decision for a few days until the Lebanese authorities make the necessary arrangements to fill the vacuum that will arise--and in order to preserve the security situation in the country through an understanding with all parties, foremost of which is the ADF Command. The decision has, in fact, been taken, and it is irreversible. However, its implementation has been postponed until the necessary arrangements are made in order to avoid any possible repercussions. His Excellency President al-Asad has affirmed to me that this decision does not mean that Syria will abandon the tasks that the ADF primarily entered Lebanon to implement, foremost of which are maintaining the unity of Lebanon--its territory, people and institutions--and preserving the security situation. [end statement]

Asked the reasons that prompted the Syrian officials to adopt this decision, Prime Minister al-Huss said: I cannot explain them now. Asked whether his visit would pave the way for a summit meeting between Presidents Sarkis and Al-Asad, he said: Such a meeting must not be ruled out. Although nothing specific has been agreed upon, the possibility of such a meeting depends on upcoming developments.

Haddad Statement

NC050720 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic 0600 GMT 5 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Commenting on the withdrawal of the Syrian occupation forces from some Lebanese areas, Free Lebanon commander Major Haddad has stated the following: We are anxious to see the last Syrian soldier leave Lebanese territory. The partial withdrawal which took place is better than nothing, provided the Lebanese Government takes advantage of this and immediately sends the army to take over the areas from which the withdrawal took place regardless of whether the terrorists and their agents like it or not. All the people want this. If the government fails to do this, it should be put on trial on charges of high treason. This is because the terrorists will fill the vacuum and the situation will explode.

We absolutely do not accept what the Syrian forces are planning to do in Lebanon. They are planning to open a battle with Israel on Lebanese territory. If Syria wants to fight, let it fight from the Golan and not from Al-Biqa' and southern Lebanon. In any case, Syria must leave Lebanon immediately. The suffering and tragedies which this small homeland has borne as a result of Syria's bad intentions are enough. The president of the republic must act quickly and ask for a Security Council meeting to discuss the question of the Syrian-Palestinian occupation of Lebanon.

CLASHES RESUME IN BEIRUT; MORE ADF WITHDRAWALS

NC041602 (Clandestine) Voice of Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 1515 GMT 4 Feb 80 NC

[Excerpts] Clashes involving artillery as well as light and medium weapons resumed this afternoon in Al-Bastah at-Tahtah, Burj al-Murr and At-Ta'wuniyah. At 1620 some shells fell near At-Ta'wuniyah in Khandaq al-Ghamiq. Initial information indicates that three people were killed and several were wounded.

Following these events, the security forces closed off the roads leading to the area, particularly Fu'ad Shihab Bridge.

Meanwhile, Al-Murabitun [Independent Nasirite Movement] gunmen occupied a roadblock from which the Arab Deterrent Forces have withdrawn in Al-Qantari.

The Arab Deterrent Forces have also withdrawn from Al-Mukallis, Al-Mansuriyah and some barracks in Western Beirut.

VOL REPORTS COLLAPSE OF CEASE-FIRE IN SOUTH

NC050702 (Clandestine) Voice of Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 0615 GMT 5 Feb 80 NC

[Text] The cease-fire announced by the UNIFIL Command in the south has collapsed. Tyre, An-Nabatiyah and neighboring villages came under heavy artillery fire during the night from Israeli border positions. Israeli warplanes continued to reconnoiter Palestinian armed positions until late last night. Gunboats patrolled the southern coast to monitor Palestinian and leftist armed movement.

In Beirut, there is still tension in the western sector in the areas from which Syrian forces have completely or partially withdrawn. There were a number of clashes in the past 24 hours between armed members of Palestinian organizations and leftist organizations, especially in the areas of lower Al-Bastah and Burj al-Murr, where a number of people were killed or wounded.

VOP on Fighting

NC050855 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 0645 GMT 5 Feb 80 NC

[Text] The military spokesman of the joint forces central command last night made the following statement:

The isolationist-Israeli enemy has been directing artillery fire at the Tyre area since 1915 yesterday. The artillery shelling continued until 2200. There is also mechanized movement in Al-Bayyadah. Since 2100 the isolationist-Israeli enemy has also been directing intermittent artillery fire at the Al-'Ayshiyah area.

IRANIAN VOLUNTEERS REPORTEDLY LEAVE FOR IRAN

NC021221 Paris AFP in English 1210 GMT 2 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Damascus, Feb 2 (AFP)--Seventy Iranian volunteers who arrived in Damascus last December with the aim of fighting alongside Palestinian guerrillas in south Lebanon have returned to Iran, Palestinian sources said here today. There was no word on a further 223 volunteers currently in a Palestinian training camp, but a Palestinian source said on January 14 that none had as yet left Syria.

The only Iranian to reach Lebanon so far was the organiser of the volunteers, Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammed Montazeri, who had talks with Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasir 'Arafat at the end of December.

VOL: SYRIAN FORCES TO PULL OUT OF BEIRUT, SUBURBS

NC040650 (Clandestine) Voice of Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 0615 GMT 4 Feb 80 NC

[Text] The Syrian decision to withdraw from Beirut and its suburbs and deploy the deterrent forces in Al-Biqa' area has perplexed the state and the government and created anxiety in official and leadership circles, which have described the decision as a new obstruction to security and stability in Lebanon. In view of this fait accompli, it has been decided that Prime Minister al-Huss will visit Damascus today to persuade Syria to postpone the implementation of this decision until the deployment of the Lebanese army in place of the deterrent forces can be coordinated.

Reports leaked out 24 hours ago that Damascus had already informed the nationalist movement and the resistance of the decision and asked them to take over the positions which will be vacated and which the nationalist movement and the resistance held in 1975 and 1976. This was probably discussed between Syria and the delegations of the nationalist movement summoned earlier to Damascus.

It has also been reported that the Palestinian resistance has informed the nationalist movement that it does not want to get involved in this matter because plunging into the Lebanese quicksand is of absolutely no benefit to the Palestine cause anymore.

INA Report

JN041519 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1430 GMT 4 Feb 80 JN

[Text] Beirut, 4 February--The Syrian forces operating in the Arab deterrent forces today pulled out of their positions along the coastal strip between Jisr al-Madfun and Tripoli in northern Lebanon. Initial information reports that the Syrian forces have left behind a number of roadblocks erected on the international highway between Beirut and Tripoli. They also kept two strategic positions at Jisr al-Madfun and in the township of Al-Kurah.

In another development, Israeli warplanes made several sorties this afternoon over the Palestinian camps near Tripoli.

Other reports indicate that the Phalangist militias sent four Sherman tanks to the area under their control between Beirut and Tripoli. They reinforced their positions near the Lebanese armys roadblocks in these areas.

Withdrawal Postponed

JN042024 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 4 Feb 80 JN

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Lebanese President Dr Salim al-Huss at 1600 today. The meeting was attended by Syrian Prime Minister Dr 'Abd ar-Rauf al-Kasm. The discussion during the meeting revolved around bilateral relations, with particular emphasis on Syria's decision to withdraw from Beirut its forces that are serving with the Arab Deterrent Forces.

Dr al-Huss expressed his wish that implementation of this decision be postponed in order to preserve Lebanon's security. President Hafiz al-Asad agreed to postpone implementation of the decision for a few days until Lebanon makes the necessary arrangements in this regard, affirming that the Syrian forces will continue to abide by the tasks for which they entered Lebanon; namely, maintaining Lebanon's unity and safety and the security of its citizens.

Dr al-Huss left Damascus at 1800 today. He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Prime Minister Dr 'Abd ar-Rauf al-Kasm, minister of state for foreign affairs Faruq ash-Shar and the Damascus mayor.

Lebanese Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss made a statement to newsmen prior to his departure from Damascus. He said: Our talks dealt with the various questions connected with bilateral relations, with particular emphasis on Syria's decision to withdraw its forces from some areas. Our discussion dealt deeply with the dimensions of this step and on the reasons that prompted the Syrian authorities to take it.

As a result of these talks, it has decided to postpone the implementation of this decision for a few days, until Lebanon makes the necessary arrangements in a manner to preserve security in Lebanon.

Dr al-Huss said: The president has asserted to me that this measure does not mean that Syria will abandon the task for which its forces had entered Lebanon, particularly maintaining Lebanon's unity and security. He added: The decision has been adopted but its implementation has been postponed for a few days, until the necessary arrangements are taken to preserve the country's security and the safety of the public.

MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD ASSASSINATES RELIGIOUS FIGURE IN ALEPPO

JN031249 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 3 Feb 80 JN

[Excerpt] Aleppo--The Muslim Brotherhood gang committed a new ugly crime last night to be added to its series of crimes against the ulema, professors, men of religion and armed forces, who are among the best of our Syrian strugglers.

At 1730 yesterday, three members of this gang violated the sanctity of the As-Sultaniyah mosque and assassinated a professor and religious authority, Shaykh Muhammad ash-Shami, when he was preaching inside the mosque. Shaykh ash-Shami died instantly. The criminals also shot and killed Al-Haj Muhammad Subhi Labaniyah. Al-Haj Muhammad al-Qattan was injured and was taken to the hospital.

Clashes With Security Forces

NC041903 (Clandestine) Voice of Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 1715 GMT 4 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Our correspondent in Syria reports that last Saturday, intelligence men clashed with worshippers inside Ar-Rahman Mosque in the As-Sabil quarter of Aleppo; four intelligence men were killed.

Yesterday, Syrian special squads clashed with members of the Muslim Brotherhood in Maysalum quarter; machineguns and handgrenades were used during the clash.

Our correspondent further reports that the Al-Qal'ah quarter in Aleppo continues to be the scene of continuous clashes between the Muslim Brotherhood and intelligence men. Members of the brotherhood kidnaped a 6-man military police patrol.

The correspondent goes on the note that tension continues to prevail in some Syrian cities, particularly in Aleppo.

FOREIGN MINISTER KHADDAM RECEIVES PLO'S 'ARAFAT 4 FEB

JN041715 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 4 Feb 80 JN

[Text] 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Syrian deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, received today Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman; "Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar, PLO official spokesman; Talal Naji, PLO Executive Committee member; and Muhammad Ratib Ghunaym, Fatah Central Committee member.

The two sides discussed the situation in the region, bilateral relations and means for strengthening these relations.

AL-ASAD RECEIVES SAUDI PRINCE 'ABDALLAH

JN042006 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 4 Feb 80 JN

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received His Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn "abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, second deputy prime minister and commander of the Saudi National Guard, today. They discussed bilateral relations and the situation in the Arab region.

ALGERIA

WEST'S 'SELECTIVE' CENSURE OF INTERVENTION SCORED

LD041655 Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 28 Jan 80 p 5 LD

[Boukhalfa Amazit article: "The Real Peril"]

[Excerpt] Events in Afghanistan and, especially, the fall of the Pahlavi monarchy have upset the imperialist strategy in West Asia. It is obvious that, following its unsuccessful intervention in Indochina and the collapse of its strategy in Vietnam, Kampuchea and Laos, the United States--since it is U.S. policy to which we are referring--has moved westward because, among other things, of the presence of major supply and energy-production centers in those regions. However, before they were able to try to gain control over all West Asia, the Americans were beaten to the post by the peoples of that part of the continent. In fact, the entire U.S. strategy has been destabilized as a result. However, as Mohamed Seddik Benyahia [Algerian foreign minister] recently emphasized when talking to the French press, any analysis of the events in Afghanistan and West Asia would be incomplete if limited solely to that region without taking into account international relations as a whole and their present nature.

It is, therefore, not surprising that the Western press has seconded the warmongering statements made by the White House and by American leaders and has lost no time in repeating the slogans once used by their predecessors, champions of McCarthyism. And--supreme paradox--after applying appellations to the Iranian Revolution which were as fantastic as they were insulting with respect to it religious and Islamic components and after calling Islam a "retrograde" religion and Muslims "blind fanatics," the West has suddenly become the champion of Muslims in Afghanistan! Since when has the West been interested in their fate? "Dripping pens" in newspaper offices "weep over the fate of those peoples" while U.S. Naval destroyers maneuver in the vicinity of the countries concerned "to hasten their deliverance." In fact, however, it is because peoples have risen in those regions that imperialism is trying to stifle their legitimate desires with renewed ferocity. And wherever peoples are engaged in a struggle, imperialism or its attendants act, first in an underhand and later in a brutal manner.

For instance, as far as Afghanistan itself is concerned, the policy pursued by the United States consists of obscuring the situation by claiming to be an ally of Muslims against the "red peril." This is an attempt to throw dust in the Iranians' eyes by persuading them that the future of Muslims "is an important factor in the White House's policy."

Therefore, as Islamic students have stated, the U.S. regime and, especially, Carter remain the "main enemy." It is no accident that the United States and Western countries are having a good laugh at what is taking place in Kabul. Denunciations of interventionism have again been selective.

Those who now accuse others of interventionism have said nothing about the "Jaguars" and other "B-52's" [as published] or when King Hassan II's and As-Sadat's soldiers were dropped by parachute over Shaba or "when the legion made a drop over Kolwezi" or, again, when Zionist forces were destroying southern Lebanon. If interventionism is to be condemned it must be condemned on the basis of people's right to self-determination and not on the basis of sordid special interests and military strategy. Therefore, the West's sudden interest in Third World peoples seems to us very surprising.

LIBYA

TUNISIAN EMBASSY IN LIBYA REPORTEDLY ATTACKED 4 FEB

NC041732 Paris AFP in English 1726 GMT 4 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Paris, Feb 4, (AFP)--The Tunisian Embassy in Tripoli came under attack by demonstrators this morning at about the same time as a mob was ransacking the French embassy in the Libyan capital, Tunisian diplomats said here.

Demonstrators apparently entered the Tunisian Embassy precinct as only one guard was on duty, all diplomatic personnel having been recalled. Tunisia is now expecting to recall its remaining consular staff from Libya, the same sources said.

Embassy Not Damaged

NC041812 Paris AFP in English 1832 GMT 4 Feb 80 NC

[Excerpt] Paris, Feb 4, (AFP)--Tunisian diplomats hastily evacuated their embassy in Tripoli today in the face of a mob which has earlier sacked the French mission there, the Tunisian ambassador to France said. But Ambassador Hedi Mabrouk denied earlier reports that the Tripoli embassy had been sacked and burned, and said that diplomats there had been warned by Libyan police of the approach of the demonstrators. The diplomats had been advised to leave the building rapidly, and it had done so by the time the demonstrators arrived. No damage was caused to the embassy.

FRENCH AMBASSADOR COMMENTS ON FRENCH EMBASSY INCIDENT

LD042306 Paris Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 4 Feb 80 LD

[Text] [Announcer] This morning it was every man for himself at the French Embassy in Libya. The building was suddenly attacked by demonstrators and the premises ransacked.

These very violent incidents are, without any doubt, connected with the Qafsah events. The Libyans wanted to punish France for the military aid it gives to Tunisia. Anyway, that is the eplanation given by the ambassador himself, Charles Malo, who has taken refuge in his private residence where (Francoise Gaujour) telephoned him: [begin recording]

[Malo] I assume that the demonstration was aimed at France's policy of freindship towards Tunisia which is resented here. Moreover, the demonstrators certainly had the Tunisian affair in their minds since they were shouting slogans such as "Popular Revolution in Tunisia!" "Popular Revolution in Tunis!" "Popular Revolution in Qabis!" "Popular Revolution in Safaqis!", and so on. The majority of the slogans related to the neighboring country of Tunisia rather than to France.

[Gaujour] What is the attitude of the population in Tripoli?

[Malo] There is no hostility toward the French. [end recording]

[Announcer] For the moment, the 2,000 French people living in Libya are not frightened of anything. All the same, a crisis headquarters--a crisis cell--is assembled at the Quai d'Orsay at the moment. The French Government protests over what it calls an inadmissible and unspeakable act. And the Quai d'Orsay adds that France will be able to draw conclusions from this affair regarding the level of French-Libyan relations.

JANA REPORTS 'FIERCE FIGHTING' IN QAFSAH

LD041650 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1605 GMT 4 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Paris, 4 February, JANA--Fierce fighting is going on in the town of Qafsah between the popular revolution on the one hand and the invading French armed forces and the forces of the hireling Tunisian regime on the other. Panic engulfed the French forces and the hireling forces due to the huge number of free Tunisian citizens joining the popular revolution forces, to such an extent that they started shooting at each other.

This led the field command of the hireling government to order its units to hold the Tunisian flag aloft in order to avoid coming under fire. In consequence, the brave insurgents of the front shelled three advanced standard-bearer units and destroyed them.

Meanwhile, five other men of the police force have joined the revolution. They have now taken their posts among the heroic revolutionaries. Greetings to these heroes; we are now waiting for the rest of the people's police force to join.

JANA: TUNISIAN RESISTANCE DOWNS FRENCH MILITARY PLANES

LD042058 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1730 GMT 4 Feb 80 LD

[Excerpt] Tunis, 4 February, JANA--The Tunisian popular resistance forces have shot down a number of military planes of the French forces invading Tunisia. Reports from Tunisia say that the fierce fighting between the armed resistance and the French invading forces today spread to the north of [place name indistinct] and the French invading planes flew to this region to strike at and suppress the popular resistance which has spread to cover several regions in Tunisia including Qafsah, Qabis, Safaqis, Susah and Al Qasrayn.

DEMONSTRATORS ISSUE STATEMENT CONDEMNING FRANCE

LD042050 Tripoli JANA in English 1830 GMT 4 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Tripoli, Feb 4, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--A huge march was organized in Tripoli today by the Libyan Arab people in protest against the French military invasion of Tunisia and in support of the popular uprising there. The demonstrators issued a statement in which they condemned the hostile stands taken by the French Government against the Arab people, and affirmed that the year 1980 is different than the year 1830 and that the imperial era has gone and is now replaced by the era of masses which is free from exploitation of the people's resources and of hegemony.

The masses said in their statement that French military intervention in Canada, Chad, Senegal, Ivory Coast, Central Africa, South Africa, Reunion, Ocean Islands and the acts of piracy in Saguia al-Hamra, Benin and Lebanon are acts committed with a middle ages colonialist mentality, as if peoples could be herded like cattle and sold in the marketplace like slaves. The statement said the entire Arab nation condemns the French Government for its fascist intervention and its oppression of revolutionary liberationist forces in Tunisia and the dispatch of French mercenaries to Arab lands.

The statement added that the fading fascist regime in Tunisia killed thousands of innocent people and imprisoned freedom fighters. Hundreds of thousands of Tunisian people left their country to Germany, Belgium, France and Italy, escaping from oppression to where they can find a better life. The fate of this agent regime will be like the fate of the shah of Iran and all fascist traitors. In conclusion, the masses of the march affirmed their stand with the Tunisian revolutionary forces who are launching the people's revolution in the mountains and cities. The masses of the march urged the sons of freedom fighters and martyrs in the Jamahiriyah, Tunisia and Algeria to express solidarity with the people's revolution which is now confronting the French invasion.

ARAB PEOPLE'S CONFERENCE DENOUNCES FRENCH ROLE IN TUNISIA

LD051002 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 5 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Tripoli--The General Secretariat of the Arab People's Conference has declared its absolute solidarity with the struggles of the Tunisian masses in their challenge to Bourguiba's police regime and the French invasion of Tunisia.

In a statement issued yesterday about the hostile foreign interventions in Tunisia, the secretariat called on all progressive national regimes and all Arab progressive forces to play their part in supporting the struggles of the Tunisian masses in their courageous challenge to the French military invasion and in exposing all colonial plans in Africa.

The statement denounced the French military intervention in Africa, especially the brutal French military intervention against the liberation uprising of the Tunisian people.

The statement also denounced the military moves in the Arabian Gulf region, the Arabian Peninsula, the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean. It stressed that this demands from all progressive national regimes and all popular masses more vigilance and caution and work to concentrate all resources and potential in order to foil all these hostile colonial plots.

In its statement the secretariat urged the Arab masses to play their required role to retaliate against these plots and to escalate the struggle to foil all colonial plots. In conclusion, the secretariat stressed the necessity to call the National Front for Steadfastness and Confrontation to hold its fourth conference and to adopt combative measures and revolutionary decisions expressing the aspirations of the Arab masses for liberation, progress and unity.

JANA REPORTS BANGHAZI DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST FRENCH

LD051014 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 5 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Banghazi--A popular march was held last night [as received] in Banghazi in denunciation of the blatant French intervention against the Arab people's revolution in Tunisia and Tunisia's conversion into a French protectorate.

The masses taking part in the march, which headed for the French consultate offices, expressed their absolute support for the Tunisian people's struggle to win freedom for their land and to get rid of their executioners and denounced the blatant intervention.

Paris Reports 'No Casualties'

LD051046 Paris Domestic Service in French 1000 GMT 5 Feb 80 LD

[Text] The attack on the French consulate of Banghazi in Libya has not caused any harm to the diplomatic staff. Besides, the French people were warned of what was coming and everybody was able to leave the premises before the arrival of the demonstration. The consulate was completely ransacked and equipment and furniture were entirely destroyed.

On the other hand, the French ambassador whose embassy--as you know--was also damaged yesterday, is giving reassuring news on the fate of the 1,800 French people--staff engaged on cooperation projects, civilians and military personnel--who are in Libya at present. Nevertheless, the Quai d'Orsay recommends that anybody intending to go to that country should do so only for professional reasons. It is preferable at present to avoid tourist trips.

Finally, the crisis unit of five or six specialists which was set up at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs yesterday was meeting all through yesterday evening and resumed its work at 0800 this morning.

JANA CITES TUNISIAN OPPOSITION MOVEMENT STATEMENT

LD041850 Tripoli JANA in English 1416 GMT 4 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Paris, February 4, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--The Tunisian January 26 rally condemned the suppressive practices of the present regime against the national and trades unionist forces of the country, particularly after the events in Qafsah. In a statement issued in Paris today the rally stated that the Tunisian regime has used the events as a justification for launching yet more arrests in the country. It stressed that what took place in Tunisia, particularly in Qafsah, was an indigenous popular freedom fighting movement, and not inspired by foreign forces as the regime's mass media have claimed.

The statement noted the Tunisian regime's (?unconcealed) dependence on military aid from the French Army, a serious dependence which we reject if we are to respect the independence and national sovereignty of Tunisia." [quotation mark as received] The statement highlighted further the Tunisian regime's main concern to be the continued presence of the French forces in the country.

He [as received] added: "The French imperialists are demonstrating their allegiance to the policy in intervention, which they continuously pursue, but this policy has grave consequences on the security of the region."

The January 26 rally cited the statements and visit to Tunisia by the chief-of-staff of the French Armed Forces, General Guy Mery on the eve of the January 26 (1978) events which shook the Tunisian regime violently. It also indicated Western commitment regarding the protection of the consequent recent visits by the commander of the U.S. Sixth Fleet to Tunisia.

The statement underlined that: "The Tunisian people are themselves responsible for their own destiny and none other has the right of protecting it." The statement called on all workers, unions, and democratic organizations in France, the Arab homeland and the world to denounce this Western imperialist attack against Tunisia and to support the just struggle of the Tunisian people who are intent on expelling the French forces from their land.

JANA REPORTS COMMUNIQUE BY TUNISIAN 'RESISTANCE'

LD041844 Tripoli JANA in English 1638 GMT 4 Feb 80 LD

["Military communique by Tunisian Popular Resistance"--JANA headline]

[Text] Paris, February 4, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--The general military command of the revolution's forces issued the following communique:

A group of our revolutionaries ambushed a patrol of guards and policemen. A heavy exchange of fire developed with our men inflicting several casualties on the regime's forces. Following our heavy attack, the patrol called for help from the French invading forces which were forced to pull out of the city [not identified] by our revolutionaries.

JANA CITES TRIPOLI RADIO ON TUNISIAN POLICY

LD041626 Tripoli JANA in English 0831 GMT 4 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Tripoli, Feb 4, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--A commentary by the broadcasting station of the socialist people's Libyan Jamahiriyah asserted that the anti-Libyan campaign of lies and fabrications launched by the Tunisian regime recently clearly shows the psychological and moral bankrupcy of the regime itself. It added: "The Tunisian regime is carrying on this campaign in an attempt to preoccupy and divert the betrodden Tunisian masses from their shameful reality."

The commentary under the heading "The Tunisian Regime Reaps Its Harvest" went on to say: "The world has heard the lies perpetrated by the lackey Tunisian regime but, knowing the ways of this regime, its problems and contradictions, it never took them seriously. It claims that we Libya do not take its statements seriously. This is because it has repeated itself for the hundreth time. Now, we can anticipate that each time the Tunisian masses move in revolt against the whip of oppression and relieve themselves of their nightmare and prison, this regime issues allegations against the Jamahiriyah.

These allegations would not in normal circumstances bother us but for the role of this country as a bastion of freedom and progress. It is also considered an example for the world to follow, and a symbol for peoples struggling against colonialism.

The commentary noted Hedi Nouira's interview on Tunisia by saying that the Tunisia which Nouira is speaking of has become a French protectorate and a lackey of world monopolies.

The commentary economic and political disputes between peoples can be solved through the application of the Third World theory. [sentence as received]

The revolution's leader, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, says this theory is not only the result of the Libyan people's struggle. It said Nouira's allegation that Tunisia had achieved independence in 1956 is baseless.

The commentary reads as follows:

In the past few days the ruling regime has come to us unveiling its tyranny and oppression in Tunisia. It has come to us with a series of lies and accusations meant to disguise its failure and inability to confront the grave and mounting internal problems facing it. Through such lies and accusations this regime was attempting to export its incapacity and its lack of moral values out of the country, to divert the attention of the oppressed Tunisian masses from their miserable reality. The world listened to the lies sarcastically and did not take them seriously, because it was already familiar with the practices of this regime, the nature of its problems and the reality of the contradictions it lives. We, too, did not take this regime's allegations seriously, because they have now been made over a thousand times and we have become well aware that every time there is unrest amongst the oppressed and exploited Tunisian masses trying to rebel in a bid to come out of the nightmare imposed by this regime, and to liberate themselves from its chains, every time this happened, the regime resorted to accusations against the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah for the simple reason that it is a military fortress, a pillar of progress, a model challenging the world and a proud symbol of the peoples struggling against imperialism for their freedom.

We thoroughly know the accusations of the Tunisian regime, to the point of boredom, yes, to the point of boredom. We even expect that if a goat died in Safagis, Madnin [as received] or Tunis, the news would inevitably reach Hedi Nourira through his oppressive police. Then it would claim that the Jamahiriyah was responsible. But the Tunisian regime has been going on misleading, lying and attacking thus giving us the opportunity to expose it and show its reality before our proud people in Tunisia and before the whole world. First of all we ask Hedi Nouira the head of this regime, what kind of Tunisia you lead? What is its social standing and its social economic and political reality? And we answer Mr President, yes Mr President, as Hedi Houira likes to be called, that the Tunis you speak about is a French protectorate and a satellite of international monopolies. All this because of you and because of your false pretense of independence, resistance and struggle since 1956.

First of all how can you explain that Tunisia is linked to old and neo-imperialism in its stands, resolutions, political trend and behaviour. What kind of stand was it that was adopted by the regime to support the cause of freedom in the Arab region, in Africa and in the world? How can you explain that Tunisia withdrew, cut its Arab roots and distorted its Islamic character, for the sake of associating itself with the ideology, culture, language and social system of imperialism. What kind of Tunisia is it that kills her students, oppresses her universities and slaughters her workers for the benefit of an oppressive and exploiting minority? What kind of a regime is it that impoverished its peasants, encouraged its workers to emigrate and drove its youth to prisons and concentration camps because they resisted the social oppression and unjust relations? What kind of a Tunisia is it that rejects Islam as a system and instead maintains the organized corruption? What kind of a regime is it that is terrified by the word of Allah as if by a frightening ogre while it should, on the contrary, be happy to see it on the walls, a symbol of might and [word indistinct], because there really is no greater than Allah? What kind of a regime is it that enabled the monopolies to suck the blood of the people's masses, for the benefit of multinational companies.

And finally what kind of a Tunisia is it where French troops are called and American weapons brought, to turn it into a small protectorate governed by the French Ministry of Cooperation, formerly of colonies? This is the Tunisia you want and the one you govern, certainly your Tunisia, but not that of the proud struggling people who offered sacrifices and suffered martyrs. And here you are, with your clique, trying to use all the sacrifices and turn the blood of the martyrs into palaces and a great wealth with fluid sums to be placed into your account at the American and European banks. This is your Tunisia, one of contradictions, prisons, starvation, a lackey Tunisia of one exploiting party, a Tunisia of Rothschild banks, of commissions, of expelled freemen who are dispersed to all corners of the earth. But the other Tunisia, that of the people's masses who do not call the forces of imperialism, you certainly do not know here, but she knows you. She also knows that you are about to run for your life as your ally, the shah and your opposite number Somoza before.

This Tunisia has uprisen and will not rest until she experiences the dawn of her freedom, through the armed peoples revolution which started in Qafsah and will only end in Al-Qasabah palace. Then through the people's authority, the palace will become that of the people. We tell you, Mr President, that history moves forward, and the people's revolution speaks for the people and defines their future. No one can obstruct its violent course, because it is that of the masses of the hungry and the exploited against their tyrants.

This was tried before by the shah of Tehran, but despite all his might and the might of his masters, he ended up expelled and humiliated, unable to find any refuge. Now is the time of the shah and despot of Tunisia. Tomorrow when the Tunisian masses win their victory which is bound to come, you will remember these words, that is if you do not share the fate of Nouira [word indistinct]. You will know that you can only reap your own harvest, that lies cannot last, that the preachers of blasphemy cannot survive. And, Mr President, we shall have more to talk about.

LIBYA DECIDES NOT TO RAISE OIL PRICES

NC041930 Paris AFP in English 1920 GMT 4 Feb 80 NC

[Text] London, Feb 4, (AFP)--Libya has decided not to raise its oil prices, going against the price increase trend started by Saudi Arabia one week ago and followed by almost all other members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

Libyan oil will stay at 34.72 dollars a barrel. But rather than charging a base price of 30 dollars a barrel plus an additional surcharge of 4.72 dollars per barrel, Libya will now charge a straight 34.72 dollars.

MOROCCO

COMMUNIQUE ON 'AGGRESSION' AGAINST TUNISIA ISSUED

LD041354 Rabat MAP in English 1237 GMT 4 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Rabat, Fes (MAP)--"The aggression perpetrated against Tunisia is part of the policy of hegemonism to which Morocco pays a heavy tribute", stated a communique issued by the Executive Committee of the Moroccan "Istiqal" Party and published by its daily L'OPINION (in French).

The communique added that "the Executive Committee denounces this policy which generates [word indistinct] struggles that scatters energies and prevent the people of the region from strengthening their national independence and their economic and social development. Such policy hinders the solidarity that should be displayed in the common struggle against Zionism and colonialism."

"The committee voices its support to the Tunisian people as it judges that this policy of aggression and division serves only the objectives of the enemies of the Arab nation, and calls upon peacesmitten forces to denounce this despicable aggression", concluded the communique.

TUNISIA

NOUIRA: TUNISIA WILL IMPROVE DEFENSES FOLLOWING ATTACK

LD050937 Paris LE MONDE in French 3-4 Feb 80 p 4 LD

[Michel Deure and James Sarrazin interview with Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Nouira in Tunis on 1 February: "The Attackers Intended To Get Up an Autonomous Region and Call for Support from Abroad"]

[Text] Tunis--In Tunisia Friday 1 February was celebrated as a "Day of National Solidarity" with the military and civilian victims of the attack on Qafsah. "People's marches" were organized in all cities to protest against "Al-Qadhdhafi's shameful attack" while the "prayer for the absent" (prayer for the dead) was said in mosques after the traditional Friday sermon. Almost 1 week after the attack, the city of Qafsah is still isolated and is still being combed by the police.

The Tunisian Government admitted for the first time on Friday that it had received foreign "logistical aid." The Tunis Africa Press Agency in fact confirmed that France had sent two Transall aircraft and two Puma helicopters in the framework of the "relations of close friendship" existing between the two countries. These aircraft, the agency maintains, "increased the national units' logistical capabilities and enabled faster evacuation to Tunis of seriously wounded civilian and military personnel."

One transport airplane and two helicopters were also sent by Morocco as "a fraternal gesture," and Prime Minister Hedi Nouira told us on Friday that the United States will respond" to its appeal for solidarity. "If we appeal to other friendly countries, I am sure that these countries will respond positively," the prime minister added.

Mr Nouira has not ruled out the possibility of appealing to the Arab League.

Therefore, it seems that the point of requesting condemnation by the "Arab family" has not yet been reached. At the moment, while awaiting the results of the inquiry, Tunisia has merely resorted to recalling ambassadors and closing cultural centers as an "initial demonstration" toward Libya. "The Libyan cultural center in Tunis has virtually become a den of intelligence and corruption," Mr Nouira indicated. The government chief went even further than the party newspapers, which regard the Qafsah operation as just one link in a vast enterprise to destabilize the region: "This is one instance in the framework of persistent efforts by the Libyan Government against Tunisia over the past few years. The Mediterranean is just one example. Tunisia is a link in a chain of countries bordering the Mediterranean which have shared the same fate for centuries. If one of them were subjected to an attack, geographical, historical and cultural solidarity would be shown."

The prime minister considers the presence of Tunisians--"a few hundred"--in terrorist training camps in Libya an "open secret." "We have approached the Libyan Government about these camps more than once and we have even protested," Nouira added. "The government in this neighboring country has always denied their existence. The perpetrators of the attack now admit it. They have mentioned specific camps and given geographical details. Moreover, the statements made by the Libyan number one shows definite intentions and even premeditation." The prime minister indicated that "well before these events" dozens and even hundreds of Tunisian workers in Libya (there are around 50,000) were expelled almost every day at the Rasjedir border post.

Despite the threats which could hang over it the Tunisian colony in Benghazi (Libya) sent President Bourguiba a message condemning the "savage attack" and asserting that it is prepared to confront "traitors and mercenaries." Mr Nouira did not deny the dangers now facing Tunisia and said that "anything can be expected from inconsistency and gut hatred." Speaking to the Destourian ministers on Wednesday, the prime minister did not disguise the fact that Tunisia feared new attacks from its neighbor. That fear was not lightly expressed: "I based what I said on specific information and statements by the attackers themselves. They were planning to use Libyan aid, which could drop supplies of weapons and food and give them all they would need to maintain not only defensive, but offensive positions. They also intended, if they succeeded in their attempts, to set up an autonomous region and ask for support from abroad. Logically, nothing prevented them from appealing for help from the government which housed, maintained and trained them.

Mr Nouira rejected any suggestion of the slightest complicity with the commandos from the region's inhabitants and said that he considers that an "unfounded assertion."

The government chief has already drawn one lesson from last weekend's events: Tunisia will have to review its political priorities: "After Qafsah I would say there will be a little less laxity with regard to consumption and, at the same time as development, efforts must be made to improve the country's defense system. Economic prosperity and social progress depend on physical security and a calm environment in which to pursue our efforts."

TUNIS: QAFSAH EVENTS 'INSTIGATED BY LIBYA'S FOOL'

LD041529 Tunis TAP in English 1420 GMT 4 Feb 80 LD

["Pool" item]

[Text] Tunis, Feb 4, (TAP)--To give violence the force of a government system and to prefer bloodshed to love of one's neighbour derive from a pathology that the international community has banished from interstate relations by imposing respect of a group of principles which must rule these relations to ensure order and security in this world.

However, being tolerant, living in peace and neighborliness, joining efforts to maintain peace and security and giving up the idea of using force which are the principles stated by the UN Charter and reiterated by international law, seem at the end of the XX century, out of date.

The barbarous attack against Qafsah, a peaceful city of south west Tunisia, is an overwhelming evidence for the "prize-list" of a fanatic statesman's heinous crimes.

The preparation, the organization, the means used and the aim of this attack show that it is an aggression revealing imperialistic designs when a trend prevailing in the Third World strongly insists on the inadmissibility of interference in the states' internal affairs and on the protection of their independence and sovereignty.

Such interferences being the main source of danger for peace, the UN condemned and prohibited them.

In fact, in order to promote friendly relations and cooperation between states according to the UN Charter, the General Assembly passed in 1970 a declaration reaffirming the following principles:

--Non resort to threat or use of force against any other state's territorial integrity and political independence.

--Settlement of international disputes by peaceful means so that international peace and security and justice may not be endangered.

--Duty of non-interference in the states' internal affairs.

--Sovereign equality of states.

--States duty to cooperate with one another.

--Equality of peoples' rights and their right to self-determination.

Completing this international set of laws, it defined in 1974 aggression as "the use of armed force by a state against another state's territorial integrity or political independence of the use of any other means inconsistent with the UN Charter.

This resolution, the General Assembly also defined as an aggression "the invasion or the attack by armed forces of another state's territory, any military occupation or territory annexation resulting from the use of force, bombardment or the use of any weapons against the territory of another state....

The fact, that one state's territory is used to perpetrate an aggression against a third party, the sending by a state or on its behalf of armed gangs of irregular forces or mercenaries who take to make very serious actions of armed forces equal to acts of aggression". [sentence as received]

Consequently, is it necessary to say that the attack against Qafsah is a clearly marked aggression.

Training at guerilla, [as received] in Libya, some outlaw people wanted by the Tunisian police, bribing them, arming them and sending them to achieve their heinous crime against a part of a sovereign state's territory while keeping ready to come to their rescue are acts of aggression as those enumerated by the UN.

Saying the contrary is flying in the face of facts.

This aggression gave rise abroad to a wave of protest and concern strengthened by a difficult international conjuncture at home, the aggression came up against the bulwark of national unity and solidarity.

Will the bitter defeat suffered in this criminal venture lead its instigator to relapse?

The activism obsessing Libya's fool can only lead us to answer in the affirmative. His operations, especially in Africa and in the Arab world, are numerous. Training camps are set up in Libya to keep up subversion in various countries.

From the support of Lilliputian wars, Tripoli's regime turned to open action. The attack against Qafsah speaks volumes.

However, to belong to the League of Nations is to accept the rules of relations between its various members and to respect the UN Charter and international ethics.

Refusing to do so by setting onself up as a trouble-maker is sinking into paradox and being beyond the pale.

Al-Qadhdhafi's 'Lying Hysteria'

LD041526 Tunis TAP in English 1433 GMT 4 Feb 80 LD

["Pool" item]

[Text] Tunis, Feb 4 (TAP)--After the lashing blow it received in Qafsah, Al-Qadhdhafi's regime only found refuge in lies. Simulating astonishment, the colonel mobilizes all the forces of his propaganda means--a classical scenario--didn't he indeed have recourse to verbal guerilla after the failure of each of his terrorist manouvres?

In the affair of Qafsah, lying becomes hysteria: This is an example of this incomparable bluff broadcast by Radio-Tripoli: "The struggle reached Qabis and Safaqis and violent fighting are taking place between the forces of the popular revolution and the French forces."

Tripoli's information means are trying to give a maximum of false news at the time when dozens of special reporter's and correspondents of the national and international press are in Tunis, Qafsah, Qabis and several other Tunisian towns.

Referring itself to so-called "well-informed sources" or to the creation pertaining to science-fiction of the "General Revolutionary Committee for Tunisia's Liberation" or to the "Union of Popular Forces", Radio Tripoli states that "the navy of the US Sixth Fleet ensure the control of streets in the capital." This grotesque phantasmagoria, which doesn't have the least effect on the Libyan opinion, constitutes an entertainment of a high value in the international press offices.

It doesn't mislead anybody, however, and it is clear that it would not in any case exculpate the Libyan moron. On the contrary, it represents a real confession taking its wishes for realities. The Libyan regime propaganda event sees in the postponement of last week-end sports events "a fear of the regime to see them degenerate into a popular rebellion". Through the delirium of its propaganda, the Libyan regime recognizes in fact that Qafsah's operation is an exportation of the revolution made in Libya and an applying of the thesis of the "third universal theory".

One cannot be clearer. The Libyan regime has still to know about the art of lying: Al-Qadhdhafi tells the truth when he lies. After his failures in the Chad and in Uganda "Tripoli's insane man" bites the dust in Tunisia.

To whom is he planning to direct his coming blow? Maybe, after all, to himself.

WESTERN SAHARA

POLISARIO LEADER SCORES U.S. DECISION ON ARMS FOR MOROCCO

LD041734 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 4 Feb 80 LD

[Text] President Carter's decision to give arms to Morocco is still under discussion in Congress. The intention of the American administration's chief runs counter to the firm recommendations of the OAU, the nonalined movement and the United Nations. Omar Mansour restated this to [words indistinct]: [begin recording]

[Question] Omar Mansour, you are member of the POLISARIO Political Bureau and representative in Algeria of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic. As you know, President Jimmy Carter has decided (recently) to supply arms to Morocco valued at $250 million. How do you view this aid and what are the (consequences) of this decision--consequences at the regional, as well as international level?

[Answer] In our view, the Carter administration's decision to supply arms to the aggressive Moroccan regime can only mean, particularly as this decision comes after the resolution adopted by the United Nations which recognizes the legitimate nature of the Saharan people's fight and reaffirms its right to self-determination and independence, reaffirms the representative nature of POLISARIO, denounces the occupation by the aggressive Moroccan forces of our territory and demands the withdrawal of these forces. [sentence as heard] Also, this decision comes after the decision taken in Monrovia in which the right of the Saharan people to self-determination and independence is recognized. This decision was restated by the ad hoc committee and it has mapped out a procedure of decolonization, a procedure to (enable) the OAU to make Morocco respect the Saharan people's right to self-determination and independence.

We believe that in consideration of this situation the U.S. decision constitutes first of all, a defiance of the international organizations which have already mapped out a clear procedure; it constitutes encouragement to aggression; it constitutes encouragement for Morocco's violation of the resolutions of international organizations; and at the same time this is, if you wish, a torpedoing of the dynamism of peace which has been created by the POLISARIO Front and Mauritania. We consider this decision to be very grave for our region because it opens the way to an internationalization of the conflict, opens the way also to an increase of the suffering of all the peoples of the region and an increase which [words indistinct] one cannot control.

We believe that the United States once again wants to (side with) the aggressor in setting this region ablaze. We believe in this matter that the international community, and in particular the OAU, which has already worked out a procedure for the attainment of peaceful decolonization of the Western Sahara, must assume its responsibilities. As far as the Saharan people are concerned, we believe that it is not the arms which are decisive, which will dampen our firm will to liberate our country and to hit back at the aggressors for their defiance, to attack them and to continue to attack them in their own territory [words indistinct]. In our view, the international community must assume its responsibilities in helping the Saharan people toward independence and to build its state freely on its own territory. [end recording]

BURG BRIEFS KNESSET FOREIGN AFFAIRS, SECURITY COMMITTEE

TA041624 Tel Aviv Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 4 Feb 80 TA

[Text] The Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee was briefed today by autonomy committee Chairman Dr Yosef Burg on the progress in those talks. Here is a report from the Knesset from our Knesset correspondent Moshe Hakohen.

[Begin Hakohen recording] Dr Burg told the members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee that during the Herzliyya talks the U.S. and Israeli positions grew a little closer. Even though, he says, this should not be overrated. He said that the U.S. proposal, submitted by Ambassador Linowitz last Thursday in his meeting with Dr Burg and the Egyptian prime minister, accepted the Israeli principle that the debate on the powers of the autonomy council should be divided into three categories: the areas to be transferred to the autonomy council; the areas to be jointly administered by Israel and the autonomy bodies; and the areas that will remain under the control of the Israeli military government. Dr Khalil accepted the proposal at first. But after the areas in the various categories were specified, he changed his mind.

Dr Burg also reported that the United States submitted its own proposal regarding the areas to be discussed in each of these three categories. In some of them the U.S. position has grown somewhat closer to the Israeli position. Thus, for example, the United States suggests that jurisdiction over the Jewish settlements in Judaea and Samaria remain--during the autonomy period--in Israeli hands. However, regarding security and lands, the United States does not accept the Israeli position, maintaining that these issues should be negotiated further.

At the end of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee objected to this proposal and demanded factional caucuses. Tomorrow a general vote will be held to remove the proposal from the committee's agenda. [end recording]

BURG, TAMIR EXCHANGE CRITICISM ON ROLE IN AUTONOMY TALKS

TA050953 Jerusalem POST in Egnlish 5 Feb 80 pp 1, 2 TA

[By David Landau]

[Excerpt] A first-rate public row erupted last night between the chief autonomy negotiator, Interior Minister Yosef Burg, and a member of the negotiating team, Justice Minister Shmu'el Tamir.

"Sources close to Tamir" suggested, in a statement to the Jersualem POST, that the time had come to consider whether Burg was capable of handling both his ministerial responsibilities and the chairmanship of the autonomy team. They accused Burg of seeking all the publicity for himself and trying to ensure that none of the other negotiators got any.

Burg reacted with a tart statement of his own, implying that a sense of guilty discomfort had prompted the "sources close to Tamir" to level public accusations at the negotiating chief.

The episode began on Sunday with Burg's remark at the Cabinet that he "reserved the right to make proposal as to the composition and the working procedure" of the "spokesmanship," but he noted pointedly that he had no complaints about the work of the team's official spokesman, Dan Patir.

As reported in yesterday's POST, this was meant as a thinly veiled criticism of Tamir's role during the plenary sessions of the talks. Tamir is very active in behind-the-scenes contacts with newsmen, and sometimes gives on-the-record interviews without coordinating with Burg.

Burg is also said to feel, according to committee sources, that Tamir on occasion exacerbates tension in the committee room, and then depicts an exaggerated version of his own role in defusing the "crisis."

Responding to Burg's Cabinet remark, and its interpretation in yesterday's POST, the sources close to Tamir said last night: "The idea of 'reserving the right to make proposals regarding the composition of the negotiating committee' is a positive one, but this right is not reserved for Dr Burg alone. The time has come to examine if one man can simultaneously bear the burden of responsibility for the Ministry of Interior, grapple with the deteriorating situation of the local authorities, overcome the ever-more-serious problems facing the police--and at the same time handle properly and consistently these tough and fateful political negotiations.

"In view of the objective difficulties that the committee is facing, (this is) a time when everyone should be concentrating the maximal efforts of all the factors involved, (but) certain persons are concentrating instead on a mood of petty-mindedness and worrying lest they fail to obtain the full focus of media spotlight and exclusive media coverage."

Explaining this fighting statement, circles around Tamir said privately that Burg "has got to learn whom he's dealing with." They predicted a similar statement by Tamir at next Sunday's Cabinet session.

Burg's reaction, upon hearing this statement from the sources close to Tamir, was to say:

"It is very interesting that my remark at the Cabinet causes such responses among certain circles--especially since I didn't mention any names at all. This fact alone speaks for itself. One need not have a deep knowledge of psychology in general, or of the technique of leaking in particular, to understand it.

"Every journalist and electronic mediaman present at the last and earlier autonomy rounds knows exactly what I was referring to--even if they did not dare to write it.

"My capacities and abilities in running my ministry are public knowledge, and my activities as chief autonomy negotiator are recognized by all-except those who do not want to recognize them."

EGYPTIAN TEAM ARRIVES FOR SELECTION OF EMBASSY SITE

TA041212 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 4 Feb 80 TA

[Text] An Egyptian Foreign Ministry team arrived in Israel today to locate a suitable site for the Egyptian Embassy in Tel Aviv. Representatives of the Israeli Foreign Ministry will offer various sites in the city center to the Egyptians as well as residential houses for the embassy team.

HA'ARETZ COMMENTOR ON BEGIN'S FOREIGN POLICY

TA011453 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 1 Feb 80 p 13 TA

[A. Schweitzer commentary: "The Half of the No"]

[Text] Mr Yitzhaq Shamir's expected appointment as foreign minister is the last of a series of signals through which the prime minister wants to call the world's attention to the fact that a chapter in Israeli policy has ended and that a new one is opening. The beginning of the chapter is the appointment of Dr Yosef Burg as head of the autonomy team, a clear symbolic act meant to stress that this subject belongs to the interior minister's field of interest. The continuation of the chapter is marked by bidding Moshe Dayan farewell, a farewell to maneuverability and flexibility. Now, upon the [expected] appointment of Mr Shamir, one will have the ultimate confirmation that Mr Begin views the second half of his term as prime minister of the ninth Knesset as a period of the absolute no.

This does not pertain to the demand heard from the Arab world, including Egypt, that Israel agree to a real change in the status of Judaea, Samaria and Gaza. Many countries, including Israel's traditional friends, are joining in this demand for either the clear solution of an independent Palestinian state or a Jordanian solution. Mr Begin does not only reject these demands, but has also increasingly signaled, from mid-1979 onward, to anyone who was prepared to see these signals that there will be no concession on this subject, that there will rather be a confrontation with whoever seeks one.

The contrast between the nature of the second half of the term and the period starting with Begin's crowning as prime minister in June 1977 and ending with the signing of the peace treaty with Egypt in March 1979, is the contrast between yes and no. The Israeli foreign policy prevailing at the beginning of the prime minister's term in power constituted a sort of a forward escape. President Carter, in his talk at the beginning of 1977 with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, closed to Israel the road that was acceptable to the alinement, that of partial agreements with prime attention given to Egypt.

The answer adopted by the new government was all positive: if not a partial agreement, then one should aim at a comprehensive peace treaty with all Arab countries, and if not through U.S.-mediated bilateral diplomacy, then with the publicity of the Geneva conference with the Soviet Union as co-chairman.

However, at the same time, Israel--probably at the initiative and prompting of Moshe Dayan, an ex-member of the Labor Party and the pursuer of its tradition in foreign affairs--developed moves that were parallel in time but contradictory in policy. That was the policy of a separate agreement with Egypt. Mr Begin had more than one reason to follow this road: On the one hand it promised the agreement of the major opposition, but it was also, and primarily, a gamble that in return for success in the negotiations with Egypt the world will put up with a strengthened Israeli control in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. It was not only a blind date, but also a positive Israeli policy and momentum that brought President as-Sadat to Jerusalem: The move proved successful, the period of forward escape ended, Geneva was circumvented and the way toward the separate agreement with the major Arab country was open.

Much has been said and written in the communications media on the current events as well as in Yo'el Marcus' book, about the events of the peace-making process, about the pressure exerted on Mr Begin and about his surrender to this pressure. The surrender was tactical and touched on details: Mr Begin wanted the agreement with Egypt, but with better conditions on the southern border. [paragraph continues]

When he was required to pay the price he struggled, but finally gave up. He gave up since he understood that in return for his concession he would gain a large degree of freedom of action in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza for as long as he serves as prime minister.

It stands to reason that he found a partner to this agreement in as-Sadat: The Egyptian president actually agreed that during the prolonged process of implementing the peace agreement with Israel, and the withdrawal from the Sinai, he would not be able to use all of Egypt's power in order to implement the second half of the Camp David agreements which deal with changing the status of the trans-Green Line Eretz Yisra'el.

One should add here that Mr Begin's calculation bore fruits: President as-Sadat is acting according to the recipe of the Israeli prime minister. And then, since luck is always on the side of resolute people, the events taking place in Iran and Afghanistan have neutralized the United States. The United States has never neglected--nor was it able to do so due to the Soviet Union on the one hand and its European friends on the other--the idea of the overall agreement which also includes the Palestinian issue. The detente was, however, put in the deep freeze while the Europeans are even less able now than previously to exert their influence. Mr Begin, therefore, expects no difficulties when he approaches the implementation of the second part of his strategy, to say no to the claimants of self-government for the Arabs of Palestine, to let the doubtful and maneuvering Dayan go and to appoint Shamir as foreign minister and a reliable spokesman in the era of the no.

And, if this too has not been understood yet, the prime minister made the well-known agreement with the NRP, the party of the West Bank occupation. And the day before yesterday he even announced the beginning of applying the Israeli law--the law intended to guarantee the status of lands in settlement--to Judaea, Samaria and Gaza.

Mr Begin's strategy has one weakness: the fragility of the government. The coalition on which he relies is made up of various political bodies and only part of it--and by no means the majority--backs the prime minister's strategy. Some of these do not understand Mr Begin and attack him for betraying the holy principles of his movement precisely at a time when he created the conditions for their existence, while others disagree with both his objectives and the measures he adopts.

Still, under the cover of theatrical gestures, righteous talks and legal triviality, a strong personality, adhering to the objectives and firm on executing them, is hiding. There is room to believe that Mr Begin, who is aware of this awful weakness of his supporters' camp, will use all the tricks of a resourceful politician to maintain it until the end of his term--only thus will he be able to give an operative political validity to the stage of the "no-saying" underlying his strategy.

The only disputed subject about which Mr Begin may have to go to the president [and submit his resignation] is the future of Eretz Yisra'el. Whoever wants to cause the fall of the government should divide it over this subject, and not another--neither budget, nor social problems, nor any such similar topic. It is here that Mr Begin's power lies: The major opposition has always been divided over the Eretz-Yisra'el subject. It is not by chance that the Rabin government did not agree to let Husayn get his feet in Jericho as a condition for attracting him to a partial agreement, and it is doubtful whether it [the alinement] is prepared to say more than general formulae now.

As mentioned above, Egypt is now prepared to play the role assigned it by Mr Begin's strategy while the world is busy with more urgent problems. Nobody can therefore stop the prime minister from continuing to lead his people around and around in the world of Jabotinsky's delusions in which he was raised, in which he lives and in which he desires to end his days.

SHARON INSINUATES BEGIN 'LOSING HIS GRIP'

TA040657 Jerusalem POST in English 4 Feb 80 pp 1, 2 TA

[By Asher Wallfish]

[Excerpts] Agriculture Minister Ari'el Sharon yesterday insinuated publicly that Prime Minister Menahem Begin is losing his grip. In language which Israel has not heard for two decades--since the Lavon affair which split the Labour Party and brought political disaster on it--Sharon accused Begin of encouraging the "scurrilous slanderers" who were laying charges against him.

Sharon, in a letter to Begin which the minister's aides leaked to radio and television before Begin had a chance to read it, said that "no hand appeared to be steering" and that "everything is on the brink of collapse."

Sharon's letter to Begin ran as follows:

"Mr Prime Minister:

For the past few weeks, a spirit of turmoil has been sweeping this country. The government decided to buy lands in Judaea and Samaria, but suddenly the issue has become an arena for anarchy and gossip. The people behind it all are our so-called "elected representatives."

You, Mr Begin, instead of putting a stop to it, are negotiating with the disseminators of the slander.

It concerns a question of supreme national importance. Surely you are aware that great efforts are being made to buy lands. The topic is a delicate one, and it is accompanied by an atmosphere of threats and murder. The problem can only be solved through the intermediary of straw-men, Arab brokers of various kinds.

The mendacious publications have virtually caused the cancellation of transactions at present. Secrecy has given way to anarchy.

There is the impression that nobody is in charge here, that nobody's hand is guiding events and calling a halt. The time has come to stop.

Jews will not be able to buy lands in the future. Everything is about to collapse.

Let us not carry out our enemies' work. If it is our wish to strangle settlement, well and good. But if not, you sir, must at once silence the Likud parliamentarians, who long ago exceeded all the bounds of impudence and vulgarity.

I declare that all the purchases were carried out in a legal manner, despite the blabberings of an insignificant Knesset member, whom you met for "important" conversations.

I look forward to action on your part soon, before a disaster happens."

[Signed] Yours sincerely, Ari'el Sharon.

Initial Reaction to Sharon's Letter

TA031827 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 3 Feb 80 TA

[Excerpt] Our correspondent has been told by the prime minister's office that Sharon's letter has not yet reached them. However, the director of the office told our correspondent, Razi Barqay, that from what was broadcast over the radio the contents of the letter are grave and its style is unbridled.

BEGIN DEFENDS WEIZMAN APPOINTMENT AS NORMALIZATION HEAD

TA011112 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 1 Feb 80 p 4 (supplement) TA

[By Arye Tzimuqi]

[Text] The prime minister, who is still acting foreign minister, tried to calm the director general of the Foreign Ministry, Yosef Ciechanover, and convince him that giving Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman responsibility for dealing with the normalization of relations with Egypt should not be interpreted as slighting the Foreign Ministry. Begin explained that this was only a temporary appointment for about a month, from the middle of February until the middle of March, and nothing more. Just as Egypt had appointed its defense minister to deal with the normalization of relations, Begin claimed, so was Israel obliged to take a parallel step and charge one of its ministers with the task--and the only minister who was able to do this was Weizman.

In addition to maintaining that Weizman's appointment was temporary, Begin also reasoned that in the final analysis Weizman would be answerable to him, Begin, in dealing with the normalization. In order to convince the members of the Foreign Ministry, Begin proposed that the government establish an interministerial committee for normalization to be headed by Foreign Ministry director general, Yosef Ciechanover. Begin rejected Weizman's hinted proposal that the committee be headed by Maj Gen Avraham Tamir.

"Were I the real foreign minister I would deal with the issue," Begin said to his confidants. "But what can I do if I don't have the time." On another occasion he added to this: "What do you want? Which minister, apart from Weizman, can I give this job to?"

Former Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan had unequivocal reservations about the government's decision to appoint Weizman as "coordinator of the normalization" and termed this as a "serious political mistake." Dayan said that the consequence of this decision was to render the normalization "abnormal." On several occasions the Egyptians have tried to transfer responsibility for the establishment of relations with Israel to military elements--in total contradiction to the spirit of the peace process which should evolve from the agreement between the two countries wanting to "turn over a new leaf," and certainly not a military leaf, in their relations.

WEIZMAN CRITICIZED FOR SUPPORT OF CARTER, STATEMENT ON KENNEDY

TA011316 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 1 Feb 80 p 1 TA

[By Daniyel Bloch]

[Text] Political sources in Jerusalem reacted with shock and severe criticism yesterday over Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman's remarks the day before yesterday on television about Senator Edward Kennedy.

In an interview on the Moqed program Weizman said that Kennedy will not be President and that his interest in Israel was prevalent now because of the upcoming U.S. elections, but not before. Weizman again praised the aid that President Carter had been supplying to Israel and his contribution to the signing of the peace treaty.

Political sources defined Weizman's remarks as irresponsible and unwise, and that these remarks will cause serious damage to Israel among Senator Kennedy's supporters and among liberal public opinion which is opposed to any outside interference in domestic U.S. elections. [paragraph continues]

The sources pointed out that even if Kennedy is not elected President he will still remain very influential in forming U.S. policy toward Israel, both in Congress and in public opinion. In the future, as in the past, the Israeli Government will require Senator Kennedy's support on various issues and Weizman's remarks are not conducive to this.

President Navon Criticism

TA011238 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 1 Feb 80 TA

[Text] President Yitzhaq Navon has criticized Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman's recent remarks about U.S. presidential contenders. Weizman had spoken in support of Jimmy Carter while questioning Senator Edward Kennedy's support for Israel. Israel's president told a group of Israel bonds supporters from the United States this morning:

[Begin Navon recording] Unlike our minister of defense, I do not meddle in American politics. [laughter from audience and applause] I am sorry. It was a grievous mistake. [end recording]

WEIZMAN PLEASED WITH CABINET DECISION ON DEFENSE BUDGET

TA031943 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 3 Feb 80 TA

[Excerpt] Reacting to the Cabinet decision to approve the defense budget, Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman told our military correspondent: I do not regard the Cabinet decision as a personal victory. I have never brandished the defense whip in order to gain an addition to the budget. I think that the Cabinet understood that after two significant cuts during the period of the previous minister of finance, and after a further cut to the present budget, there is nothing more to cut in the defense establishment. Now, he said, we will have to sit down together in a series of discussions on how to divide the money and which security activities will have to be cancelled or postponed.

HERUT BACKS SHARON'S W. BANK LAND PURCHASING POLICY

TA042120 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 4 Feb 80 TA

[Text] Our Knesset correspondent, Arye Golan, reports that the Herut faction has backed Agriculture Minister Ari'el Sharon's land purchasing policy and has directed its members, who are sitting in the Knesset Finance Committee, to speed up the approval for the allocation of 50 million pounds for buying lands in Judaea and Samaria.

QIRYAT ARBA' RESIDENTS CLAIM LAND PURCHASE IN HEBRON

TA042115 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 4 Feb 80 TA

[Text] Qiryat Arba' residents say that they bought land inside Hebron, and in its vicinity, more than a year ago. They claim that they held a fund-raising campaign about a year ago and repaired delapidated houses adjacent to the Avraham Avinu Synagogue.

A nucleus has been formed in Qiryat Arba' to settle in the Jewish quarter. It numbers dozens of families.

Hebron Mayor Fahd al-Qawasimi has reacted to the proposal that the Hebron Jewish quarter be renovated and said that no one will argue that there are houses that are owned by Jews in Hebron, but in order not to increase tension in the area the idea must be given up because the Arabs have also left houses in Jaffa and in Haifa.

AFGHANISTAN

SECOND PART OF FOREIGN MINISTER'S PRESS CONFERENCE

GF0509 44 Kabul International Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 Feb 80 GF

["Second Part" of text of press conference given in Kabul by Afghan Foreign Minister Shah Mohammad Dost--date not given]

[Text] Dear listeners, here is the continuation of the press conference given by the Afghan foreign minister to foreign journalists.

Question from All-India Radio correspondent: What is Afghanistan's attitude toward the Islamic foreign ministers conference in Islamabad?

Answer: I am sure that you have read the communique released by the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan [DRA] foreign ministry. Perhaps it would be better to explain the matter to you from the very beginning. Initially we had decided to take part in this conference. I received a message from Jidda which said that, in response to the call by a number of Muslim states, an Islamic foreign ministers conference would be held in Islamabad.

At first the Afghan Government opposed the conference, as it opposed the convening of the Security Council and UN General Assembly sessions. However, we agreed to take part in this conference and said that if the overwhelming majority of the Muslim states requested the conference then Afghanistan would be prepared to take part in it to clarify its stand and refute the constant accusations against Afghanistan. In our reply to the Islamic congress secretary general, we proposed that the conference be convened somewhere other than Islamabad, preferably Jidda.

On the other hand, the Arab rejection front states, as well as a number of progressive Muslim states, did not take part because the date of the Islamic Conference coincided with the conclusion of the Camp David agreement [as heard]--a black day for the Arab and Muslim states. This ill-omened agreement was a heavy blow by the reactionary leaders of Egypt and other states in the Middle East, assisted by imperialism and Zionism, to the Muslim world's reputation. In those circumstances we knew full well that the convocation of such a conference would be an instrument in the hands of the enemies of Islam.

We explained our view on this matter in our communique. We said that the aforementioned states, which did not take part in this conference, sent delegations lower than the foreign minister level. The ambassadors of a number of these states in Islamabad took part in the conference. We believed that such a conference would only be an instrument of propaganda against Afghanistan.

Their aim in holding the conference was to draw the curtain on the dangers facing neighboring countries in the Indian Ocean, the Persian Gulf, the Middle East and other countries. They wanted to divert attention from pressing international issues. Moreover, we declared that Islam in Afghanistan is not threatened in the least, nor is it a controversial issue. The DRA frankly declared that all individuals in our homeland enjoy fully freedom of religion and belief. They are completely free to perform their religious rites.

It was possible for a number of Muslim states to adopt an incorrect stand against Afghanistan in view of the pressure by a number of other Muslim states. Moreover, the Islamabad conference did not represent all the Muslim states. It may be that the conference was attended by a numerical majority, but it lacked quality. There were a number of Muslim states that effectively participate in the Islamic movement but that did not take part in the conference. In view of the foregoing evidence, we decided not to take part.

Question from the Mongolian telegraph agency: Comrade Foreign Minister, in your speech at the United Nations you referred to threats against your country. As you know, a number of Asian states, such as Mongolia, Afghanistan, India and a number of other states, are being threatened by expansionism. I have been told that the Mongolian ambassador has discussed with you in detail the expansionist policies of the Beijing leaders. Can you explain China's expansionist policy of aggression against the masses of Afghanistan?

Answer: Yes, I believe that I referred to this matter earlier. Although the Afghan Government called on the Chinese Government to maintain normal relations, even though such relations might not be good in the early stages, we note that China's policy toward Afghanistan remains a policy of aggression. I am sure you know that the Chinese Government has adopted a hostile stand toward the interests of the Afghan masses since the inception of the Saur Revolution. According to the press reports of China's allies--I mean the Western imperialist states--China is preparing arms and instruments of war for the terrorists and marauders who are being trained in bases in Pakistan. According to the same sources, China has trained some terrorist groups even on its own territory and is extending them every facility. We have captured Chinese-made arms from the evildoers.

China is helping Pakistan. You are aware that the Chinese foreign minister was recently in Pakistan where he visited some Pashtun areas. He also visited terrorist bases and talked to the terrorists as though he were talking to people with whom he had special relations. He said China is prepared to supply these counterrevolutionaries and enemies of our masses with various types of weapons.

Earlier, the U.S. defense secretary visited China. He talked with the Chinese leaders and was warmly received. At the end of his visit they declared that they are prepared to give military aid to Pakistan. According to the same sources--including U.S. and Canadian sources--everyone who visited the bases in Pakistan believes that the Chinese advisers are training the counterrevolutionary and terrorist elements.

Question from the PAP correspondent: Can you say something about your relations with Iran?

Answer: You know that, following the recent developments in Afghanistan and after the new government assumed power, we constantly tried to initiate direct contacts with Iranian quarters. You certainly know that Babrak Karmal, secretary general of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, Revolutionary Council chairman and DRA prime minister, recently sent a message to his eminence the Imam Ayatollah Khomeyni, the revolutionary leader of the fraternal Iranian masses, in which he said: Not only there is not the slightest reason or cause for the estrangement of the masses of Iran and Afghanistan, but we must stand alongside each other, eliminate misunderstandings if they exist, and establish cordial and fraternal relations. I think you know that throughout the long history of Iran and Afghanistan relations between our masses were founded on friendship, fraternity and cooperation. We believe that there are a number of factors which make such relations possible. The message also declared that the Afghan leadership and government are prepared to carry out direct contacts with the Iranian leadership (?whenever) the Iranian leadership wants.

Moreover, we welcomed the Iranian revolution because it was a revolution against imperialism, the monarchy, and the black and corrupt defunct Iranian regime. I mean it was a revolution against a regime which the Iranian people truly revolted against and toppled. Therefore, to a certain extent (?that is linked to us) we are always prepared for normal relations with Iran. We believe that we shall one day be successful in this because this is what the masses of Afghanistan and Iran want.

I am confident that the Iranian leadership will (?understand) our peace policy, our attempt to (?save) the homeland and our policies toward those who uphold various beliefs. I am confident that when they realize the facts we shall find the opportunity to hold contacts with one another and establish normal relations between the two countries.

Question by THE TIMES OF INDIA correspondent: Although Ayatollah Khomeyni has not replied to Babrak Karmal's message, are you still optimistic about maintaining normal relations with Iran?

Answer: Yes, As I have said, we shall exploit every opportunity and means to eliminate any misunderstandings that exist. We are confident that one day they will understand our noble motives and aims, and that we want only friendship and cooperation with the Iranian people.

Question from the All-India Radio correspondent: Mr. Foreign Minister, which countries are threatening Afghanistan?

Answer: I have referred to this in general. It is no longer a secret. We used to refrain from mentioning the names of these countries for political reasons.

For instance, the Americans themselves say that in view of the current situation and recent developments in Afghanistan they are supplying arms to Pakistan and to terrorist bands, evildoers and counterrevolutionary gangs. Nor do the Chinese leaders disguise anything. They say they are doing the same thing. Moreover, you know that they have chosen for this purpose Pakistani territory and Pashtun and Baluchi areas.

Nor does Egypt disguise its stand. As-Sadat himself announced that he had set up bases in Cairo to train the evildoers and that he was prepared to supply them with arms. Some reactionary states in the Middle East have declared that they are giving moral, material and economic assistance to the terrorists and that they are giving refuge to these evil and terrorist elements.

Moreover, before I arrived here I read that Carter, as a result of developments in Afghanistan, had ordered that girls perform military service. Some 16 million persons of both sexes will be called up for military service.

All the facts are clear. These countries themselves do not want to hide their actions. The facts make it clear which countries are committing acts of aggression against Afghanistan.

AFP Report

BK051022 Hong Kong AFP in English 0755 GMT 5 Feb 80 BK

[Text] Kabul, 4 Feb (AFP)--The Soviet-backed Afghan regime of Babrak Karmal has not been recognized by a single country, according to its Foreign Minister Nur Mohammad Dost.

Mr. Dost told a meeting with "friendly" journalists, which noticeably included India, recently that "we have not so far asked for anyone to recognise us officially."

He maintained that the present government in Afghanistan which came to power in the Soviet-inspired coup on Dec 27 was a "continuation" of the revolution launched by Nur Mohammad Taraki when he ousted Mohammad Daud in the April 27, 1978 coup. He maintained that after the three month "aberration" of Hafizollah Amin's regime last year the new administration was simply continuing the Taraki revolution so the question of recognition "is not raised at all."

The foreign minister also admitted that Kabul's overtures to Iran to put their relations on a better footing had got nowhere. Mr. Dost said Babrak Karmal had sent a letter to Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeni urging that any misunderstandings be removed and calling for "friendly and fraternal ties." He said Afghanistan was prepared to enter into direct contacts with Iran at any time. He admitted that Iran had so far not received a reply to Mr. Karmal's message. But he said "we will explore all possibilities to remove misunderstandings."

The foreign minister whose remarks were reported in the state-owned Kabul NEW TIMES, also bitterly criticised China's policy towards Afghanistan and accused Peking of training Moslem rebels and "providing them with everything they need."

The minister went to great lengths to stress that the "limited Soviet contingents" in Afghanistan were to help the country ward off threats to its independence from outside its borders. He also claimed that the Soviet forces "do not interfere in any way with the duties of the state or government." This claim alone would be widely challenged by Western journalists here, many of whom have received Afghan ministry documents authorising them to visit certain places only to find the passes torn up by Soviet soldiers when they arrived at the appointed rendezvous.

Mr. Dost also repeated that the Soviet "limited contingents" would be withdrawn once everything had returned to normal in Afghanistan and there was no outside threat.

The minister took a swipe at U.S. proposed military aid to Pakistan and said it would have a "negative impact" on peace and stability in the region.

Mr. Dost side-stepped questions about India's equivocal attitude to the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan and simply referred to one statement by Indian Foreign Minister Narasmiah Rao in which he said threats from across Afghanistan's border with Pakistan, where rebel groups were being supported by various countries, had made the arrival of Soviet troops necessary.

RADIO KABUL COMMENTS ON U.S. 'WARMONGERING' POLICY

LD042258 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 4 Feb 80 LD

[Excerpts] The experienced men of the U.S. Pentagon have caused an evil arms race by their vindictive world plundering influence.

The reationaries and the experienced men of the Pentagon, making use of one of their well-established agents, Hafizollah Amin, (?wanted to endanger) the achievements of toiling revolutionary Afghanistan. Amin's band, loyally serving their imperialist masters and putting into practice their evil plans and conspiracies, was eventually brought under control by the vigilance of our toiling people. Thus, the CIA's designs in our country were faced with a historic failure.

After their historic defeat in plundered Vietnam the makers of the U.S. war policy, headed by Mr. Carter and his [word indistinct] adviser Brzezinski, have engaged in a policy aimed against world peace and the interests of the people of this region and of the world. The visit to Pakistan by the so-called adviser to the U.S. President for national security, Mr. Brzezinski, and the U.S. deputy secretary for defense, has seriously endangered stability in the region.

Supporters of the anti-imperialist Islamic Revolution in Iran have the right to express their concern over arming the region. The dangerous and plundering policy of U.S. imperialism has misused the extensive resources of Iran and now (?Iran is defending its rights and territorial sovereignty). The large and peace-loving country of India, which is following a policy of peace in the region, sees itself in danger from Pakistan, and China, too, has the right to express its criticism of this warmongering and tension-riddled international policy of the United States.

We are sure that a massive wave of criticism by the people of the region will be raised against the United States' warmongering and provocative policy which is disturbing world peace.

The government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, side by side with other peace-loving nations of the region, criticizes the warmongering policy of the United States which desires tension and arms competition.

The Democratic Republic of Afghanistan will raise the banner of peace and friendship among nations and will defend its independence and sovereignty. The fight for peace and friendship among nations is the common duty of all.

'PROPAGANDA' REPORTS OF AFP, BBC, VOA REFUTED

GF041738 Kabul International Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 Feb 80 GF

[Unattributed report]

[Text] In the wake of the success of the new phase of the Sawr Revolution, all the press and information media of the imperialist countries, their Chinese partners and all their agents throughout the world became anxious and tense and with one voice published lies and accusations against the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan [DRA], and especially against Babrak Karmal, secretary general of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan Central Committee, Revolutionary Council chairman and DRA prime minister. As there is now no scope for imperialist [word indistinct] and as they cannot (?criticize), they began to fabricate.

Recently, the AFP correspondent, with the help of (?the VOA) and its sick minds, discovered something in one of the editorials of Kabul NEW TIMES. The AFP correspondent understood the following from one of the recent Kabul NEW TIMES editorials: Babrak Karmal, he claimed, did not succeed in his efforts to create a broad political front. The same report was carried by AFP.

The imperialist press gladly wired this discovery by the AFP correspondent to all parts of the world. However, in accordance with the well-known saying that "the liar has no memory," the reactionary press and radios of the world contradicted each other on this matter. The BBC, our old enemy, carried the same report: That the Kabul TIMES had (?attacked) Babrak Karmal's attempts to create a broad political front.

We do not need proof in this regard. We leave it for the free and valiant people of Afghanistan to judge the issues. We know that our people cannot be deceived by contradictions and lies. We say frankly [words indistinct] the hostile and unconscionable [words indistinct] of the AFP correspondent of the Kabul NEW TIMES is baseless and a vile lie.

KABUL NEW TIMES EDITOR REPORTEDLY DISMISSED

TA050750 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 5 Feb 80 TA

[Text] The editor of the official English-language newspaper in Afghanistan has apparently been dismissed because he hinted at criticism of the ruler, Babrak Karmal. At the beginning of last month, several days after the revolution in Kabul, the paper NEW TIMES wrote that the political foundations of the new rule should be broadened. He wrote an editorial saying that Karmal would lose his credibility among the educated if he did not broaden his government.

AFP: REBELS BURN TELEGRAPH CENTER IN KABUL

OW050612 Hong Kong AFP in English 2347 GMT 5 Feb 80 OW

[Text] Islamabad, 4 Feb (AFP)--Moslem insurgents set fire to Kabul's main telegraph center Saturday night, reports reaching here said today. The huge blaze, which lasted the whole night, also devastated some 80 shops in Kabul's central bazaar, the reports added. It was not immediately known whether there were casualties.

The incident is the latest and most serious rebel action in the Afghan capital since the Soviet troops arrived there and installed Babrak Karmal as the country's new leader last December. Reports said a number of Afghans had been arrested following the incident.

SOVIET MILITARY EQUIPMENT NO LONGER PARKED AT AIRPORT

BK050807 Hong Kong AFP in English 0749 GMT 5 Feb 80 BK

[Text] Kabul, 4 Feb (AFP)--In less than six days nearly all the Soviet heavy military hardware which was parked outside Kabul airport has disappeared.

Last Tuesday [29 January] the airport perimeter was thronged with row upon row of tanks, armoured personnel carriers, trucks and helicopters. Returning here yesterday air passengers could see only isolated trucks and a few helicopters on the ground. There was less military hardware around than at the flight's departure point, Peshawar, northwest Pakistan, not far from the Afghan border.

There was an almost total absence of Soviet troops at the airport, but on the drive into the town at the first roundabout was an armoured personnel carrier with its 73 mm gun trained menacingly up the road leading to the airport. A taxi driver said that tanks and APC vehicles had been at almost every roundabout in the city earlier in the day.

Once again almost all the people on the flight into Kabul were Western journalists, chiefly French and Italian, hoping they would not be turned back. One journalist who tried to get out of the country by road without an official exit visa was turned back at Jalalabad, 150 kms (93 miles) east of here, close to the border with Peshawar. He was put on a local bus back to Kabul yesterday--a seven-hour journey through mountainous passes made treacherous by heavy snowfalls over the past few days. He reported seeing plenty of evidence of Muslim rebel resistance to the Soviet presence, including a blown up parapet of a bridge and the burned out remains of a United Nations land-rover.

Meanwhile the Ministry of Information which has set up a press centre for journalists here has issued fresh instructions in an attempt to stop "undesirable" reports getting out of the country. All casette tape recordings and films in future have to be sealed by the ministry publications department before they can be sent out of the country. Journalists also need permission before leaving Kabul to visit provincial centres.

The regulations finish with the ominous warning. "In the event of violation of the above regulations, the press centre is committed to introduce the violators to the security authorities of the country."

KARACHI RADIO REPORTS GENERAL STRIKE IN HERAT CITY

BK050822 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0800 GMT 5 Feb 80 BK

[Text] According to PAKISTAN PRESS INTERNATIONAL there is a general strike in the Afghan city of Herat. The strike has been called following continued demonstrations against Soviet intervention in Afghanistan.

PLANNING MINISTER INTERVIEWED ON ECONOMIC PROGRESS

LD041221 Paris L'HUMANITE in French 23 Jan 80 p 12 LD

[Martine Monod interview with Afghan Planning Minister 'Ali Keshtmand in Kabul: "Plan for Economic Recovery"--date of interview not specified]

[Excerpt] Kabul, 22 January--[Keshtmand speaks] "We have a terrible legacy to face. Thousands of political prisoners have been tortured and assassinated. Tens of thousands of Afghans have lost everything. Whole villages were bombed and razed to the ground because their inhabitants opposed the extortions of Amin's supporters. The people no longer had any democratic freedom. Nobody could be sure of tomorrow, not even of being alive. Prices were rising wildly. Essential goods such as wheat, oil, tea, meat and wood had increased by an average of 50 percent. Economic management was particularly disastrous. Most of the good cadres and technicians had been eliminated and the others were powerless and lacked facilities. In fact it was the April Revolution, its achievements and goals, its democratic, antifeudal and anti-imperialist character which were gradually being attacked in this way. The 27 December events saved the country from political, economic and social catastrope."

Priorities

When I asked the planning minister to name the new government's economic priorities, he did not hesitate for a moment.

"First, to tackle the people's daily difficulties. On average their purchasing power has fallen by 50-60 percent. Prices must be reduced and living standards raised. However, we have no illusions. We are starting from such a disorganized economy that we will not be able to achieve our aims in a day. We regard agricultural improvements as fundamental. Not only because almost 90 percent of our population are peasants but because the country must be fed. Agriculture is in a bad state. Last year's drought is partly to blame, but the main cause is the failure to implement the agrarian reform properly and the political and social disturbances which ensued. Amin's management inconsistencies and brutalities enabled the feudal lords and their foreign allies to mislead the peasants as to what the reform really meant. We are trying to put things in order and restore confidence. We are also preparing to fight to modernize agriculture by setting up pools of agricultural machinery such as combine harvesters. We want to boost two crops: Wheat, to meet daily needs, and cotton, mainly for export."

It is also necessary to industrialize the country, to build up a virtually nonexistent light industry and set up heavy industry from scratch to give the country a sound economic infrastructure.

[Question] How does S.A. Keshtmand view the future in this sphere?

[Keshtmand] "We cannot do everything at once. Reforms will only gradually bring change. We are starting on the basis of a system steeped in feudalism and moving toward the distant prospect of socialism. However, the present phase is one of national and democratic revolution on the basis of a noncapitalist and anti-imperialist path of development. The private sector and private property exist. We cannot therefore plan the whole national economy. We intend to plan the public sector. We will merely give general guidelines for the private sector."

The banks are state-owned, as are the roads, forests and mines. However, there is still a crucial problem: water. In the past the feudal lords who had water used it as a means of blackmailing the peasants. Its distribution sometimes gave rise to all-out battles in which thousands of men were killed. The state is envisaging a vast irrigation plan. But in its present state Afghanistan cannot carry it out alone.

"We have six major irrigation projects," S.A. Keshtmand said, "which will also enable us to carry out our electricity program by making power stations operational.

"The USSR is going to help us, as in other major work. In this connection I would like to point out a fact which is important for a country as poor as ours. The Soviet experts are being paid the same wages as an Afghan. As far as experts from Western countries are concerned, at least half of the loans those countries give us go to pay their experts."

BANGLADESH

HABIB CHATTI CALLS ON BANGLADESH MINISTERS

BK011629 Dacca Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 1 Feb 80 BK

[Text] Mr Habib Chatti [secretary general of the Islamic Conference] called on the foreign minister, Professor Mohammad Shamsul Haq, in Dacca today. During the discussion, Mr Chatti expressed his appreciation for the active role played by Bangladesh [words indistinct] of the Islamic Conference. He expressed his desire to strengthen cooperation among the Muslim countries. They exchanged views on the activities of the organization of Islamic Conference with special reference to the coming Islamic foreign ministers conference to be held in Islamabad.

The Bangladesh foreign minister informed Mr Chatti that Bangladesh would be happy to extend its fullest cooperation. He pointed out that recent developments indicated that there is need for not only strengthening the political security of member states but also their economic security.

Mr Chatti also called on the vice president, Mr Justice Abdus Sattar, the prime minister, Shah Azizur Rahman and the minister for religious affairs, sports and culture, Mr Shamsul Huda Chowdhury, and discussed matters of mutual interest.

POLITICAL LEADER OPPOSES COUNTRY'S RETURN TO PAKISTAN

BK021304 Dacca SANGBAD in Bengali 27 Jan 80 p 1 BK

[By its own correspondent]

[Excerpts] Gen M.A.G. Osmani (Ret), commander in chief during the war of liberation and chief of the Jatiya Janata Party, said there is a deep-rooted conspiracy being hatched to take advantage of the present confused international situation to once again make Bangladesh a part of Pakistan. If Ziaur Rahman tries to do such a thing with the help of local and foreign conspirators, then we will again unleash a war. Osmani said this yesterday afternoon while addressing a huge public meeting organized by the Janata Party at the Baitul Mukarram premises.

Asking the people to remain prepared to crush the sinister designs of the antifreedom forces, Osmani said Bangladesh can never again be a part of Pakistan.

Warning the government in power and the people, General Osmani said: We have to resist any malicious attempt to return Bangladesh to Pakistan or change our national territory into a battlefield in the interest of any superpower. He said we cannot allow Bangladesh to become involved in a war in favor of the United States, the Soviet Union or any other nation. We have to remain nonalined for our own national interest.

Referring to parliament, Osmani said: As I mentioned earlier, it is a crippled parliament and has no power. By disregarding it Ziaur is repeatedly increasing the prices of commodities.

Speaking about Soviet interference in Afghanistan and the current international situation, the chief of the Janata Party said: We are grateful to the Soviet Union for supporting Bangladesh during our war of liberation in 1971. However, having unwavering faith in nonalinement we condemn its action in Afghanistan.

AID GROUP MEETING PLEDGES FOODGRAINS FOR COUNTRY

BK030950 Dacca Domestic Service in English 0835 GMT 3 Feb 80 BK

[Text] Bangladesh is to receive about 900,000 tons of food aid from donor countries by June this year to meet its immediate food requirements. This was stated by the minister for planning, Mr Fasiuddin Mahtab, while talking to newsmen on his return this morning from a special aid group meeting in Paris.

The planning minister said the donors have assured to provide the foodgrains to help build Bandladesh its stock position to 1.2 million tons. Describing the meeting as good, Dr Mahtab said our plan to raise the stock level of food to 1.5 million tons by November this year will be met with the donors assurances. The countries which have assured food assistance are the United States, the Netherlands, West Germany and the EEC countries [as heard].

The planning minister said food production in the next financial year has been estimated at 14.5 million tons and we hope to achieve our target of (?self-sufficiency in food) by the second 5-year plan period. Dr Mahtab said the meeting of the aid consortium for Bangladesh will be held in Paris in May.

INDIA

FOREIGN SECRETARY CARRIES GANDHI'S MESSAGE TO HAQ

BK041608 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 4 Feb 80 BK

[Text] The foreign secretary, Mr R.D. Sathe, who left for Islamabad tonight, has expressed optimism and hope that his talks with Pakistan leaders would be fruitful. Speaking to newsmen at Delhi airport, he said he is looking forward to having fruitful talks which will lead to an improvement in relations. Mr Sathe was carrying a letter from the prime minister, Mrs Gandhi, for the Pakistan president, Mr Ziaul Haq.

Mr Sathe and party have since arrived in Lahore on their way to Islamabad.

PAPER REPORTS PRC ARMS, 'U.S. TROOPS' IN PAKISTAN

BK051015 Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 1 Feb 80 p 9 BK

["Chinese Arms, U.S. Troops in Pindi"--TIMES OF INDIA headline]

[By our special correspondent]

[Text] Kabul, 31 Jan--The Chinese have pumped enormous quantities of military hardware into Pakistan via the Karakoram highway, according to intelligence sources here. The supplies have been greatly stepped up since the Soviet forces marched into Afghanistan. These sources claim that some American combat troops have arrived in Pakistan presumably under a secret understanding reached between the two countries during the recent visit of a Pakistani delegation to the United States. It is believed that Pakistan has agreed to give military bases to the United States to meet the Soviet threat from across the borders.

Whether the American troops have been inducted simply for training the rebels or for some other purpose is not yet known. Chinese advisers and instructors are known to have been giving training to the insurgents in Pakistani camps for quite some time. According to intelligence sources, the Chinese have brought so much military equipment into Pakistan that, even after arming all the rebels available, they are left with a good deal of surplus.

According to rough estimates, out of about 400,000, Afghan refugees in camps in Pakistan, 50,000 able-bodied men can be recruited for military training. This will be in addition to the insurgents belonging to various tribes already engaged in guerilla warfare in the border areas.

Side by side with arming and training the rebels, the Pakistani, American and Chinese authorities are trying to bring them together under some sort of a unified command. This is proving to be a difficult task in view of the deep divisions among the rebel groups on the basis of tribal and personal loyalties. Many of the group leaders are just anxious to become local "heroes."

The Russians on their part have rearmed 50 to 60 percent of the Afghan troops (total number estimated at 1,000,000) to prepare them for active duty. The weapons of the Afghan soldiers had been taken away at the time of the coup in December. All the frontier posts are now manned by Afghan troops while the Soviet forces are 50 to 60 km from the border of Pakistan. The number of deserters from the Afghan Army is put at no more than 2,000 to 3,000 against the highly exaggerated figure of 60,000 given in certain quarters.

LUKEWARM RESPONSE TO CARTER SECURITY PLAN PREDICTED

BK040451 Delhi PATRIOT in English 26 Jan 80 p 2 BK

["Comment" column: "At It Again"]

[Text] The Carter administration is believed to have finalised the scheme for another military bloc in a slightly extended region of the old CENTO. The military arrangement will also be somewhat different. The regional span of the bloc includes Israel and Egypt, apart from Pakistan and Saudi Arabia. Efforts will be made to bring Morocco, Jordan and Sudan in the group. Iran is also considered a potential member after the problem of hostages is settled. While the CENTO was given its teeth in the shape of Anglo-American military alliances with the Asian members, the new bloc is to be bound by "security ties," which obviously mean informal military alliances. The Carter plan to dragoon the countries of this region into an anti-Soviet consolidation is part of the global design worked out in consultation with Peking and is meant to intensify the present cold war and regional tensions. But the question is whether the new block, if it comes into existence, will have any better future than that of the Baghdad Pact, CENTO and SEATO. These blocs suffered sudden and lingering death for reasons which were and remain beyond the control of U.S. presidents and their administrations. The undying urge for full national independence and peaceful endeavour for a better life militate against foreign domination. However pro-American and dependent a state may be at a particular time, the desire to free itself from constraints and domination remains alive, even among sections of the ruling classes who have chosen to bind the nation to a big power. Saudi Arab princes have already expressed the desire for extending their area of independence and made it very clear that they cannot grant any military base to the United States.

The countries chosen by Mr Carter for his new plan may be unfriendly to the Soviet Union and looking up to the United States for military aid. But they will not permit Mr Carter to order them about. There is a limit to the president's power.

DELHI: AFGHAN MINISTER ON INDIAN ROLE IN DEFUSING TENSION

BK041610 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 4 Feb 80 BK

[Text] Afghanistan has sought India's help in defusing the tension in the region. The mines and industries minister of Afghanistan, Mr Mohammad Esma'il Danesh, told the correspondent in New Delhi that India has an important role in deescalating tension in the region. Mr Danesh is in the capital for attending the UNIDO conference.

PAPER RAPS RICH NATIONS' STANCE AT UNIDO CONFERENCE

BK040435 Delhi PATRIOT in English 26 Jan 80 p 2 BK

["Comment" column: "Predictable"]

[Text] It has not taken long for developed capitalist countries to come out in their true colour at UNIDO-III. Their representatives, with the honourable exception of those hailing from the Nordic countries, have not only poured scorn on developing countries' proposal for creating a global fund of $300 billion to help them industrialise their economies but have also taken exception to the tenor of the Havana declaration embodying this and other demands of Third World nations. The proposal for creating the fund, according to them, is 'unrealistic' and the tone of the document they find to be too strident for supplicants which is how they look upon the developing countries.

As for the basis of this characterisation of the proposed fund, all that they can claim is that it lacks a proper mechanism for its disbursement, as if this mechanism can be worked out without the world community endorsing the proposal. The fact is that the developed capitalist nations, unlike those from the socialist world, have no interest in creating a fund over whose operation they cannot have absolute control as their representatives have also tacitly admitted. They find the existing 'world' financial agencies, like the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the Asian Development Bank to be adequate for the purpose for which the proposed fund is sought to be created and there has never been any doubt about these institutions being instruments of their economic and foreign policies. The fact that a congressional committee in the United States has held up replenishment of the funds which the World Bank affiliate, the International Development Association, requires to meet its commitments is evidence enough of this subservience of these so-called 'world' agencies to industrial and financial complexes in rich capitalist nations. EEC Commissioner Viscount Davignon's advocacy of the need for the Third World countries to create "stable" conditions for inflow of foreign private investment into their industries provides another testimony of the developed countries' unwillingness to step up the transfer of monetary resources to the former. There has, however, never been any ambiguity about this stand of the developed capitalist nations which UNIDO-III has only helped to bring in sharp focus. The developing countries have no reason to be scared by it. They should take it as a challenge for evolving a pattern of mutual cooperation that does not depend on the rich nations' increasing their largesse for its success.

KREISKY PREDICTS GOOD OPPORTUNITIES FOR AUSTRIA IN COUNTRY

AU041252 Vienna ARBEITER-ZEITUNG in German 2 Feb 80 p 4 AU

[Excerpt] New Delhi (APA)--On Friday [1 February], the last day of his visit to India, Chancellor Kreisky stated that the bilateral talks he had in New Delhi had yielded considerably better opportunities for Austria in India than hitherto. Kreisky reasoned that this is so because the Americans are not very well-liked and because the Indian people are slightly suspicious of big countries in general.

[Kreisky also said] the Plasser and Theurer rail construction company, which he visited in the morning, and the activities by Voest [Austrian state steel company] are proof of the great opportunities for Austria in India.

MRS GANDHI'S OPPOSITION TO FORCED STERILIZATION CITED

BK011636 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 1 Feb 80 BK

[Text] An official spokesman said in New Delhi today that reports have reached the prime minister from Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and some other states that these state governments have launched massive programs of demolition of houses and sterilization by force and coercion. He said the prime minister is distressed to know that along with these a vicious propaganda is also being carried on that they are being done under instructions from the central government.

The prime minister made it clear more than once that it is not the policy of the government to use coercion in the family planning program or engage in indiscriminate demolition. The fact that these wrong steps have been taken and such false propaganda unleashed so soon after the new government assumed the office at the center leads one to believe that this is being done with some ulterior motives.

The prime minister stated in parliament that no such instructions had been issued. She has already written to the chief ministers of the concerned states to look into the matter immediately and reply.

The spokesman said this is not a question of reputation of a government but one causing avoidable misery to the people with the intention of reaping political benefit. It is hoped that such practices will cease and whatever the political complexion of a government, the larger good of the people should prevail, he added.

MRS GANDHI 'SLIGHTLY INDISPOSED', CANCELS ENGAGEMENTS

BK031435 Hong Kong AFP in English 1423 GMT 3 Feb 80 BK

[Text] New Delhi, 3 Feb (AFP)--Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi is slightly indisposed and canceled all her engagements for today, PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported today.

The prime minister was to attend a public reception held here this evening to felicitate one of her cabinet colleagues but could not do so as she is "slightly indisposed," the agency quoted the organisers of the function as saying.

PRIME MINISTER TO VISIT ASSAM TO REVIEW SITUATION

BK021611 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 2 Feb 80 BK

[Text] The prime minister, Mrs Gandhi, had an 80-minute meeting with an eight-member delegation of the All-Assam Students Union in New Delhi today. The delegation presented a memorandum to her about the situation in the state and the question of foreign nationals. Mrs Gandhi told the delegation that the government will try to solve it with a sense of urgency. The prime minister said she will be visiting Assam in the near future. The home minister, Mr Zail Singh, was also present at the meeting. The student representatives are meeting him again on Monday for further discussions.

During the meeting, Mrs Gandhi told the students that she has sympathy for those who suffered in the agitation and understands the feelings behind the movement. But, she said, peace and normalcy is necessary before any steps could be taken for finding a solution. The prime minister pointed out the picketing of the [oil] refinery is not only causing difficulties to the people of Assam, but also resulting in national loss. Mrs Gandhi observed that the problems before them should be looked at in the national perspective. The student representatives assured the prime minister that they look to her for a speedy solution of the problems facing the state. They said after returning home, they will consult their colleagues about ending the picketing.

Mrs Gandhi said the question of infiltration of foreign nationals into Assam and their enrollment as voters will have to be looked into carefully. While nobody is in favor of foreigners being permitted to pose as Indian citizens, it is equally important to see that genuine citizens are not harassed in any way, Mrs Gandhi added.

The leaders of all parties in parliament who had expressed concern at the Assam situation asked the prime minister to take the initiative for finding a solution.

'Anti-Foreigner Campaign' to Continue

BK031715 Hong Kong AFP in English 1658 GMT 3 Feb 80 BK

[Text] New Delhi, 3 Feb (AFP)--The "anti-foreigners" agitationists in Assam have decided, apparently defying Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi, to continue their agitation in the northeastern frontier state.

Reports from Gauhati, Assamese capital, today said, quoting a spokesman of the agitationists, that they had decided to organise an indefinite mass "satyagraha" (passive non-resistance campaign) before various government offices in the state from tomorrow.

A delegation from the All Assam Students' Union, which is one of the two organisations spearheading the 5-month-old campaign, had talks with Mrs Gandhi on Saturday on the issue when she was reported to have stressed to it the need for restoration of peace and normalcy before steps could be taken to resolve the problem. The delegation was invited by Mrs Gandhi for talks.

The agitators have been demanding (?deletion) of the names of foreigners, alleged to be Bangladeshis and Nepalese settled in the state over the years, and their deportation. Their opponents have, however, alleged that the agitation is also being used as a cover to attack non-Assamese Indians living in the state.

The reports said the satyagraha call, marking a new phase in the stir, was jointly given by the students union and the other organisation involved, namely, the All Assam People's Action Council.

Meanwhile a leader of the Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M) and member of parliament, Jyotirmoy Bosu, said in Jaipur, northern India, today that the foreign missions of "various capitalist countries" were behind the Assam agitation. He did not name them.

CPI-MARXIST URGES COOPERATION AMONG OPPOSITION PARTIES

BK011618 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 1 Feb 80 BK

[Text] The Central Committee of the Communist Party of India-Marxist has called for cooperation among all opposition parties and groups in parliament. Briefing newsmen on the central committee's deliberations, the party's general secretary, Mr E.M.S. Namboodiripad, said: In the post-election situation it has become all the more urgent to build opposition unity to defend the democratic rights of the people.

Mr Nambodiripad expressed the view that the landslide victory of the Congress-I was the result of what he called antipeople policies pursued by the Janata Government and its successor Lok Dal-Congress caretaker government.

CPI COUNCIL ACCEPTS DANGE'S RESIGNATION

BK050923 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 0843 GMT 5 Feb 80 BK

[Text] The resignation of S.A. Dange from the chairmanship of the Communist Party of India has been accepted by its National Council.

PAKISTAN

INDIAN FOREIGN SECRETARY SATHE ARRIVES FOR TALKS

BK041610 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 4 Feb 80 BK

[Text] A four-member Indian delegation led by the secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr R.D. Sathe, arrived in Lahore today on the way to Islamabad. Mr Sathe told newsmen that the delegation's visit was within the scope of bilateral talks between the two countries and was in connection with developing relations between them.

In reply to a question, the secretary of the Indian Foreign Ministry said that he was carrying a letter from the Indian prime minister, Mrs Indira Gandhi, for President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq.

Remarks on Arrival

BK050357 Karachi Domestic Service in English 0300 GMT 5 Feb 80 BK

[Text] The Indian foreign secretary, Mr R.D. Sathe, arrived in Islamabad last night to hold talks with the Pakistan foreign secretary, Mr S. Shahnawaz. Mr Sathe said on arrival that the talks will cover all matters that would promote greater understanding and friendship between the two countries. He said there was no fixed agenda for the talks. He has come with full hope of bringing about a greater understanding between the two countries and the two peoples. Asked if he thought his talks could lead to a summit, he replied why not and added that their relations would improve and they could have talks at every level. He was asked whether the talks would also cover the developments in Afghanistan. He replied that not only the situation in that country but also the situation in many other parts of the world would be discussed.

When Mr R.D. Sathe's attention was drawn to the spate of news items in the Indian press expressing concern over the prospects of the supply of arms to Pakistan following the recent developments in Afghanistan, he replied they would have discussions on this as well. Asked to give his assessment of the situation in Afghanistan, especially after the Soviet aggression, he replied he would like to reserve his comments until their talks were over.

He replied in the affirmative when asked whether he had brought any letter from the Indian prime minister, Mrs Indira Gandhi, for President Mohammad Ziaul Haq.

The Pakistan foreign secretary, Mr S. Shahnawaz, when asked to comment on the specific object of the present visit of the Indian foreign secretary, told newsmen that it was part of the process of bilateral talks at the foreign secretaries level started last May when he had gone to New Delhi. Mr R.D. Sathe's visit to Pakistan, he added is the second round of that process. He said any subject which is of common interest would be discussed as they carry on the talks.

Mr Sathe will call on the adviser on foreign affairs, Mr Agha Shahi, before the start of the talks. He is scheduled to call on President Mohammad Ziaul Haq this afternoon and will attend a dinner to be given by the Pakistan foreign secretary.

Talks Open in Islamabad

BK050825 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0800 GMT 5 Feb 80 BK

[Text] The first round of talks between Indian Foreign Secretary R.D. Sathe and Pakistan Foreign Secretary S. Shahnawaz was held in Islamabad this morning. Sathe later called on Adviser for Foreign Affairs Agha Shahi. Pakistan Foreign Secretary S. Shahnawaz and the ambassadors of both countries were also present on the occasion.

According to the program, the Indian foreign secretary will meet President Mohammad Ziaul Haq this afternoon and attend a dinner to be hosted by the Pakistan foreign secretary in his honor.

CABINET REVIEWS DELEGATIONS' VISITS, ISLAMIC CONFERENCE

BK041620 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 4 Feb 80 BK

[Text] The federal cabinet meeting in Rawalpindi today reviewed the latest regional and international developments. Chief martial law administrator Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq presided over the meeting which also reviewed the outcome of the visits of the foreign ministers of China, Britain and Australia and the recent visit of the high-level U.S. delegation led by Mr Brzezinski.

The meeting also reviewed the decision taken at the Islamic conference of foreign ministers in Islamabad. The cabinet meeting, which lasted 6 hours, was also attended by the chiefs of the armed forces.

KARACHI RADIO ON HAQ-BRZEZINSKI TALKS, U.S. RELATIONS

BK041750 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1715 GMT 4 Feb 80 BK

[A.A. Kamil Zuberi commentary]

[Text] On the completion of 3-day talks between Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq, president of Pakistan and Mr Zbigniew Brzezinski, President Carter's special assistant on national security, a joint statement has been issued saying that Pakistan and the United States agreed that the Soviet Armed Forces intervention in Afghanistan and aggression against Muslim people of that country is a flagrant violation of the international conventions and norms and a serious threat to the peace and security of Pakistan, the region and the world. Besides expressing complete identity of views on the situation, the United States reiterated that its commitment to Pakistan's independence and security pursuant to the 1959 agreement was firm and enduring.

The Government of Pakistan reiterated its resolve as stated in the 1959 agreement that it was determined to resist aggression. The identity of views as expressed in the joint statement could be source of satisfaction for both the sides and it can be expected that they could open up a new chapter of friendship between the two countries. When Daud's government was overthrown by a Soviet-inspired conspiracy in April 1978, the situation in the region took a serious turn. The new government which took over in Afghanistan started persecuting the religious elements in the country. As a result, a large number of people came over to Pakistan. Since then, two more heads of state in that country have been murdered and in December last the Russian forces themselves took over the administration of that country and installed a new man as the head of state. The move has aggravated the situation in the entire region.

Besides the tremendous increase in the influx of Afghan refugees into Pakistan, whose number has now (?spread) to more than half a million, the presence of the Soviet troops in Afghanistan causes serious threat not only to the security and integrity of this country but to the entire South Asian region. It is this point that the leaders of this country have been emphasizing for the free world to take cognizance.

As far as the Muslim world is concerned, it reacted with the urgency the situation demanded. In the extraordinary session of the foreign ministers of the organization of Islamic countries, they have made their point of view very clear. It was expected that the other countries would also react with the same urgency. Though immediately these expectations did not come true, now it seems that they also realize the [word indistinct] of the condition prevailing in the region.

As far as Pak-U.S. relations are concerned, Pakistan always honored its commitments with that country. Unfortunately the other side did not reciprocate. The agreement of 1959, which has been referred to now, existed in 1965 and 1971 also when this country was attacked by a neighboring country. But the American leadership did not care to come to the aid of Pakistan. On the contrary, it [words indistinct] and the defender of power. This attitude has rightly created doubts in the minds of the people of this country about the usefulness of the agreement. They are now fully justified in asking their friends in the United States of America to redefine that agreement. It is understood that a revised agreement would now be presented in the U.S. Senate for its approval. It should then make clear to both the parties what it actually means. It is hoped that after [as heard], an atmosphere of better understanding and confidence would be created to the benefit of both the countries.

KARACHI: WORLD BODIES EXTEND AID TO AFGHAN REFUGEES

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[Text] An agreement was signed in Islamabad today under which the UN high commissioner for refugees has increased its aid from $9.6 million to $26.4 million for the Afghan refugees in Pakistan. The aid will be given to the Pakistani Government to provide primarily housing, clothing, blankets and mats for the refugees.

The world food program has agreed to provide additional food aid worth $6 million for the refugees. This was announced by the UN office in Islamabad today. With this additional aid, total aid from the world food program for Afghan refugees will reach $11 million.